



Saddle up for polo

Photos by Yi Dali



Polo was played in China as early as the third century, but like many traditions it was smashed in the Cultural Revolution. Some local polo fans are hoping to get the nation's rich interested in this elite sport, which could become an even more exclusive status marker than golf.

Read more on Page 4

**New policy
favors small
business**

Page 6

**Avalanche
of snakes
scares locals**

Page 7



Pages 12-13

Chasing their dance dreams

Hong Kong's tough dance market inspired these two choreographers to chase their creative dreams on the mainland.



Page 17

Dine out on the lake

Looking for a memorable summer night? Grab a boat at Houhai and dine out on the water.

**Obama's
brother blazes
charity trail**

Page 8

**Young artists'
fair shows
affordable art**

Page 10

Advertising could save bike rental business

By Zhang Dongya

With all the former rental companies dead or dying, the local government is preparing to roll out a new bicycle rental system to fight ever worsening traffic congestion.

The most successful attempt so far may be in Yizhuang, Daxing District, where one company is using its bicycle fleet to sell advertisements.

Gov pushes for bikes

The Municipal Commission of Transportation announced last month that it would be testing public bicycle rentals in Dongcheng and Chaoyang districts.

As part of the plan, it is making 10,000 bicycles available for rent along subway Lines 5 and 10 to ease commutes during high-traffic hours. Several districts are preparing similar trials.

The Chaoyang District Commission of Transportation said it will put 200 bicycles at four locations, with 70 bicycles available at the Dawanglu subway station and 100 at the parking lot of the Sunshine 100 at Guanghua Lu.

All rental locations will be in the central business district (CBD).

Users will be required to pay a one-time deposit of 300 yuan to use a bike. Use is free for the first 30 minutes. The first hour costs 0.5 yuan, and additional hours are billed at 1 yuan each.

The maximum rent for one use will not exceed 20 yuan, but users who fail to return their bikes within 48 hours will lose their deposit.

The Municipal Commission of Transportation said it chose to

make bike rentals free or low-cost to promote use.

Users within the six downtown districts can rent and return bicycles at any location. Suburban users will be required to return their bikes to a rental station in the same district.

Yizhuang, in the northeast of Daxing District, selected 34 test locations in June for bicycle rental. Its bicycles require a deposit of 400 yuan. The first hour is free and the second hour costs 1 yuan. The third hour costs 2 yuan and prices continue to climb by 1 yuan per hour up to a maximum fee of 20 yuan per day.

Past lessons

Every private bicycle rental business in Beijing has failed.

Beijing Bicycle Rental Company, founded in 2005, once operated 200 sites and commanded a fleet of 8,000 bicycles during the 2008 Olympic Games. Today it has 12 sites and fewer than 50 employees.

Fangzhou, once the largest bike rental service in Beijing, filed for bankruptcy last November.

The manager of the company said his business failed due to poor government support rather than financial mismanagement.

He said residents chose not to rent bicycles because the fees were too expensive and the roads too unsafe – especially with how motorists abuse the bicycle lane.

Previous rental services cost 5 yuan per hour and were hampered by a backward system of returns. But more than anything else, it was the national obsession with face that made Beijingers shun any vehicle with fewer than four wheels, said Guo Haiyan, the secretary general of China Bicycle Association.

Guo said rental companies were also crippled by a government decree that forbade them from engaging in advertising.

Advertising trial

Regulations on outdoor advertising prohibit all vehicles except buses from displaying advertisements.

But Yizhuang was able to get around this.

As an economic and technological development zone established in 1991, Yizhuang has many advantages in seeking investment and policy support.

Han Yonggang, manager of operations at Lüchang, Yizhuang's bicycle rental com-



Bicycle rental companies in Yizhuang are the first to be permitted to use their fleet for advertising. CFP Photo

pany, said last Sunday that the company had obtained permission to display advertisements on its bicycles and storage sheds.

For the trial phase, it is displaying public service advertisements about "low-carbon riding" to encourage environmentally friendly methods of commute. In the future, it may seek more overtly commercial clients.

Yizhuang authorized a state-owned company in the district to manage the program and its advertisement and rental revenue.

Han said the advertisements cost less than TV commercials, but have excellent exposure due to the number of bicycles in the city.

"Ads on buses or other media are already common in the city, so there really isn't any reason to prohibit ads on bicycles," he said.

The bicycle rental services in some tourist cities like Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, have succeeded by cooperating with the local tourism industry. However, the heavy traffic and dangerous roadways make promoting bicycle rental a challenge in the capital.

Lüchang's current fleet includes 1,000 bicycles, 600 of which are racing models.

The company is considering how to expand its advertising space to include the bicycle frames and baskets.

Fighters unite to face foreigners in MMA



Zhao Zilong won the championship trophy.

By Yao Weijie

Fighters from both sides of the Taiwan Straits met to face gold belt holders from the US, UK, South America and Sweden in a tournament under Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) rules.

Top of the Forbidden City World Combat Championship 2011, the contest, was held at Shougang Basketball Center Gymnasium last Friday.

While combat tournaments are popular in China, there have been few MMA events.

"There is no difference between the strength of different schools of martial arts -



Fighters from the mainland and Chinese Taipei met to challenge foreign martial artists in the country's biggest MMA tournament yet. Photos provided by Beijing Bokesen Sports Culture Development

only between the skill levels of their practitioners," said Liu Xiaohong, board chairman of Beijing Bokesen Sports Culture Development, the tournament organizer.

"We chose to follow MMA rules to avoid forcing fighters

from other schools to fight with a handicap, and to enhance our masters' understandings of other systems of martial arts," she said.

At the competition, Junmabieke from Xinjiang defeated Irshaad Sayed from South Africa.

Chinese fighters Zhao Zilong, nicknamed the Dragon Warrior, and Aotegen Bate, nicknamed the Eagle of the Grasslands, won in their first round against opponents from the US.

Wang Dapeng defeated Cui Liucui under MMA rules.

"The masters from Chinese Taipei have been highly ranked at international competitions. Inviting them to participate with us in this tournament against foreign fighters was symbolic of the cross-straits relationship," said Lei Jieqiong, spokesman for Beijing Bokesen Sports Culture Development.

"This is the first competition in the Top of the Forbidden City World Combat Championship 2011," Liu said.

Competitors will meet every other Friday for the rest of the year to challenge martial arts masters from all over the world. At the end of the year there will be a final match to determine the world champion, Liu said.

The competition was directly broadcast by streaming TV stations to allow as many as 400 million people to view it on their smart phones.

Liu said the gymnasium hopes to gain recognition as a world combat and entertainment center.

"In addition to international and domestic events, we're planning to host theatrical performances that combine fashion, rock and worldwide martial arts to create something unique that appeals to martial arts fans all over," she said.

Divorce ceremonies ease break-up for couples

By Chu Meng

Japan's devastating earthquake and Tsunami in March inspired many couples to rethink their commitments. The ensuing breakups meant big bucks for the divorce industry, where "Yes, I do," has become a new vow of parting.

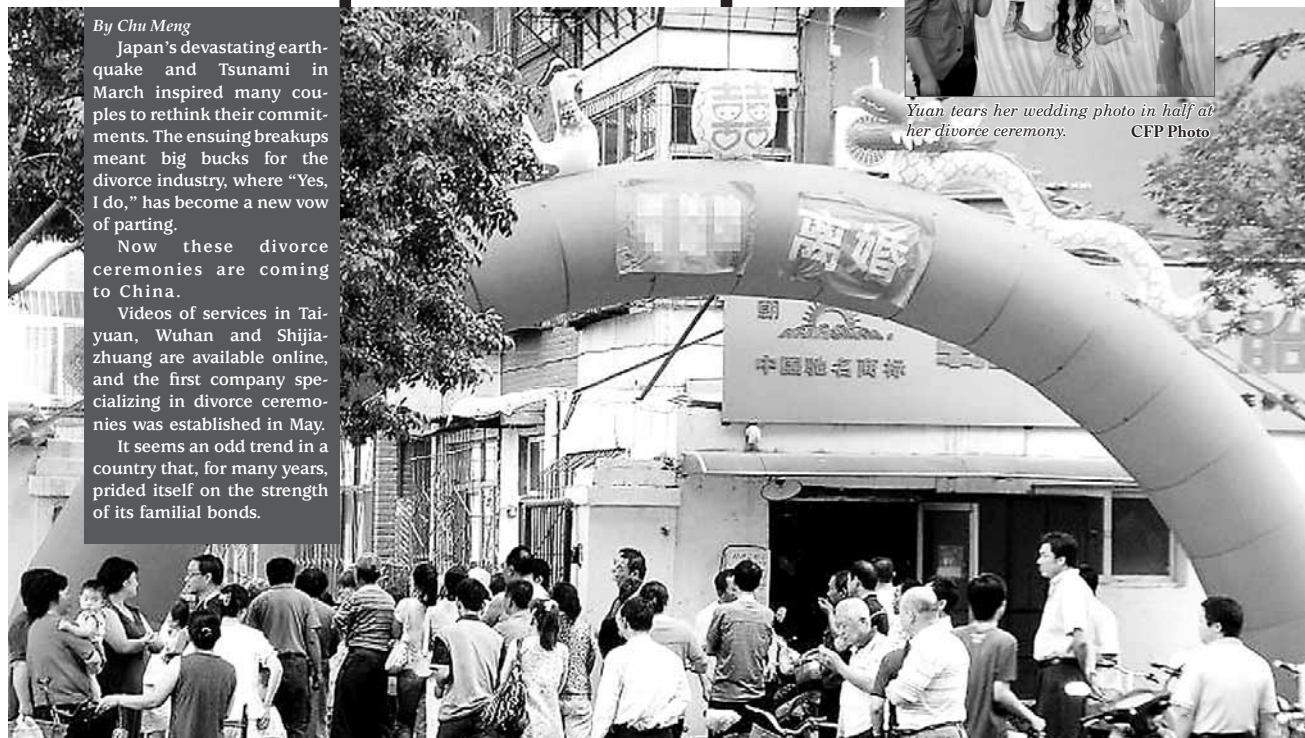
Now these divorce ceremonies are coming to China.

Videos of services in Taiyuan, Wuhan and Shijiazhuang are available online, and the first company specializing in divorce ceremonies was established in May.

It seems an odd trend in a country that, for many years, prided itself on the strength of its familial bonds.



Yuan tears her wedding photo in half at her divorce ceremony.
CFP Photo



Yuan Li (pseudonym) and her husband Wang Jian (pseudonym) held a divorce ceremony in Taiyuan on June 19.

CFP Photo

Riding in a Lincoln luxury sedan and wearing white wedding dress, 57-year-old Yuan Li (pseudonym) and her husband Wang Jian (pseudonym) headed to the grand ceremony that would be their final parting.

Yuan and Wang filed for divorce on June 19 last year in Shanxi Province. It was six months after director Feng Xiaogang's box-office hit *If You Are the One 2* introduced China to the idea of divorce ceremonies.

At the ceremony, the former couple hired a band and held a banquet with family members and friends. When the two stood up and ripped their wedding photo in half, it was a public end to an unhappy marriage.

American humorist Helen Rowland wrote that, "When two people decide to get a divorce, it isn't a sign they don't understand each other, but a sign that they have at last begun to."

That may have been the case for Yuan.

She and her husband met 32 years ago and had been married for 27 years. It was a shock when she discovered that the father of her three children was secretly having an affair.

"Our parents were initially opposed to the divorce, and honestly, I didn't want to go through with it either. But it was better to split up than to continue with the pain," Yuan told Xinhua News Agency in an interview.

When they legally divorced in July 2010, they decided to keep it a secret and continue living together to protect their youngest child from the shock of the news.



Shu Qing is the founder of China's first divorce ceremony planning company. Photo provided by Shu Qing



"A divorce ceremony is basically good psychotherapy. It helps whoever was hurt to approach the change rationally and recover quickly,"

"It was a difficult year. We had to act like a real couple in front of our children, our family, our friends and our neighbors. I think that on some level I wasn't ready to accept it," Yuan said.

She wanted to have a final ceremony to split up and settled on her wedding anniversary as the date.

At the end of the ceremony, she and her husband took off their wedding rings and threw them in an aquarium.

The ceremony was organized by Hao He Hao San, a company specializing in psychological and legal services related to marriage and divorce.

It was established by Shu Qing, a 30-year-old mother with a 3-year-old daughter, together with four other women this May in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province.

She was inspired by Feng Xiaogang's film and the phenomenon in Japan.

"One should seek the blessings

of friends and family in divorce. Psychologically, it is a good way to release pressure. Though conservatives may disagree, divorce is a personal choice," Shu said.

Shu said some people require ceremonies to release pent-up negative emotions. This is why people have funerals, and why there are memorial services after natural disasters, she said.

"A divorce ceremony is basically good psychotherapy. It helps whoever was hurt to approach the change rationally and recover quickly," Shu said.

She said the demand for divorce ceremonies has exceeded her original expectation.

"Some couples seeking divorce were from my city, but we also had requests from bigger cities like Beijing and Dalian," she said. In spite of stereotypes about divorce among young couples, more than 30 percent of the company's clients turned out to be middle aged.

Kong Qingmei, a psychologist at Peking University Sixth Hospital, said the ceremony might be useful in helping husbands and wives to understand each other.

The Municipal Bureau of Civil Affairs said that 600 couples registered for marriage each day in 2010; each day, another 128 filed for divorce.

The divorce rate has skyrocketed since 2001, when only 5,000 couples filed for divorce.

Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen lead the nation in divorce, and couples in which one or both partners are younger than 40 are the most likely to separate.

Qi Xu, a researcher from Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences' Family Research Center, said the high divorce rate might be due to increased living standards and expectations.

Young couples, where both members are only children, are using divorce ceremonies to avoid

hurting each other when they are unable to reconcile.

"Our company endeavors to provide estranged couples a sense of closure and peace through the ceremony," Shu said. "It's a last chance to get rid of their negative emotions."

As China's first divorce ceremony designer, Shu said she chooses warm and comforting love songs for background music. The host's speech has to reflect the state of the client's relationship, but in a way that does not offend older guests. All services involve reviewing photos albums and family videos.

The ceremony also has a "divorce dress," which emphasizes a woman's back rather than her front. It is tailored to make her look beautiful when she walks away after the breakup.

News of the ceremonies sparked Internet discussion. Xie Zhi, a 32-year-old man who divorced last year, said he did not like the idea of divorce ceremonies, which may cause couples to overlook the bad times and hesitated to end their marriage.

"It would make my parents and older family members feel humiliated. All in all, divorce is not an honorable thing to promote," Xie said.

Xie was married for five years and has a 3-year-old daughter.

However, Shu and her company said the market for divorce ceremonies is promising.

"We will continue to promote the ceremonies as a way for divorced couples to show respect to each other, find relief and begin their new lives," Shu said.

Polo is back

Nation's rich try the 'sport of kings'

By Han Manman

The rich already golf and go tooling around in their yachts, private airplanes and luxury cars, but polo may be a whole new level of pomp for the beau monde.

Winston Churchill once called a polo handicap one's passport to the world. Will the sport's rebirth in China be a new trend or a temporary fad?



Tang Polo Club held a friendship match last weekend to draw the attention of the local rich.

Photo provided by Tang Polo Club

Starting from zero

Eight riders in helmets, pants and boots took to the field to swing their mallets last weekend at Beijing Tang Polo Club.

Off the field, women were seen in formal dresses and party hats as they watched the match from the audience section.

The club, located on the banks of the Wenyu River in suburban Beijing, stables hundreds of horses from Australia, Argentina and the UK. The friendly match was a celebration of the arrival of the club's first members.

Tang Polo's match was the second local polo match, after the Beijing Polo Friendship Competition held by *Horseman Magazine* days earlier. The two matches had the same purpose: to draw many moneyed viewers and whet their appetite for the most elite of sports.

But polo is nothing new for China.

The sport was played at least as early as third century. It peaked in popularity 700 years ago, but declined during the Qing Dynasty, during which ordinary people were forbidden to own horses.

Polo remained part of China's National Games in the 1950s and was promoted by the Chinese government, but it was wiped out during the Cultural Revolution.

Now polo is being brought back by players who rediscovered it in the UK and Argentina, where the sport continues to have a strong following. Liu Shilai, the 41-year-old founder of Tang Polo, is one such player.

As the first and only Chinese polo player to be recognized internationally, Liu hopes to revive an interest in the sport beyond its social cache.

"Polo is called a gentleman's sport. Since we don't have a noble class in China, we have to train ourselves to become gentlemen," Liu said.

Liu's friend describe him as a polo maniac. Before he fell in love with the sport, Liu was an adventurer who loved sailing and water-skiing. His life changed when he met Anmar A. al Nimer-Hmoud, the former Jordanian ambassador to China, at a local equestrian club five years ago.

"Nimer-Hmoud was an excellent polo player. He saw I was good at riding horses, so he



Liu Shilai is the first and only Chinese polo player to be recognized internationally.

Photo by Yi Dali

More Chinese parents are eager to enroll their children in polo clubs with private courses.

Photo provided by Susanna



Lady's party hats show is part of the polo culture. Photo by Yi Dali

invited me to get involved in the sport," Liu said. The ambassador personally trained him in polo.

With a half year, Liu was obsessed. He left China for Australia, and then for Argentina, where he had more opportunities to practice.

Liu said he was the only Chinese player he ever saw at an inter-

national competition.

"Even though I won some matches, people still doubted my ability. No one imagined that China could have polo, let alone a good polo player," he said.

Liu hopes his efforts can attract more people to get involved in the sport. His dream is for China to have a team that is capable of com-

peting abroad.

"I won't give up unless I'm dead or bankrupt," Liu said.

Obstacles behind

But promoting polo is no easy task.

"The game requires immense will and a lot of energy. Players face lots of obstacles," said Xiao Li, the announcer of Tang Polo's match.

"Your average rich man can't make it without an extreme love of the sport – that's what Liu has," Xiao said.

Despite its ancient history, promoting polo in China is very much like starting from zero. The game has neither players nor recognition.

Despite having hundreds of equestrian clubs, China has no polo clubs, Xiao said.

"Even today, there are only six polo clubs with fields in China. Three are in Beijing and one is in Tianjin," Xiao said.

Fewer than 100 people have any involvement in the sport.

For the clubs, finding members is a battle in itself. The game's high cost makes it off limits to all but the wealthiest.

Liu said Tang Polo members pay 500,000 yuan per year in duties and 1 million yuan to buy and stable a horse. An additional 300,000 yuan is necessary each year to maintain the field and organize events.

The club members who joined last week were Tang Polo's first.

The country's immature polo market and lack of professional coaches and referees is another barrier. The country has no handicap system, so players are currently unrated.

Low public recognition means that most matches go unattended.

"There are few cheers when playing polo in China, there are few cheers. Sometimes I feel like I am alone on the field," Liu said.

Great potential

It's hard to say whether polo can become as popular as golf, but many experts say the game has great potential in China.

Rowland Wong, the Singaporean president of Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club, said he is anticipating an explosion of popularity. His club has recruited coaches from the US, UK and Australia.

"We want to be ahead of the

wave, not riding it. That's why we're working so hard to promote polo," he said.

Wong hopes that his club, a one-hour drive from Beijing, can draw moneyed elites from both the capital and Tianjin.

"Polo isn't a sport: it's a way of life. China has a polo tradition that goes back centuries as one of the first places in the world to play the game. It's great to see it coming back," said Nicholas Colquhoun-Denvers, chairman of Hurlingham Polo Club in the UK, one of the world's oldest clubs.

He said China's first rich generation sees golf, red wine and Ferrari cars as symbols of wealth: the second generation, which is better educated, will be looking for something even more exclusive. Polo is a likely pick.

Harriet Kay, an editor at *Polo Times Magazine* in the UK, is also optimistic about the sport's potential in China.

"The polo market in China is still too small to be quantified, but I believe China has proven itself to be a powerful nation. Polo, at its core, is based around tradition, and that's something the Chinese market has to draw on," she said.

Kay said making the sport viewable by more people will help to promote interest.

"Televised matches would be a fantastic way to expose more of the country to the sport," she said.

Some Chinese parents predict polo's position among the next generation will be the same as golf. Many are eager to enroll their children in polo clubs with private courses.

Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club recently held a two-week polo training activity for children younger than 18. The event drew many parents from Tianjin and Beijing, and the club is planning to offer more short-term courses soon.

Kay said she hopes that if the sport proves popular, more common people will have the chance to get involved.

"Polo has more fans than ever in the UK. You see it in arenas, city parks and on beaches – even in the snow! This revolution is breaking down the old stereotype of polo being an elitist sport," she said.

Farewell, Yao Ming

What legacy will Yao leave beyond basketball?

Chinese basketball is about to suffer a big loss: Yao Ming is preparing to retire.

Though the 31-year-old Houston Rockets center has not made a formal announcement, his plan to retire was leaked to the media and stirred frenzy among fans.

But before he officially says goodbye on July 20, it might be a good time to reflect on Yao's success and the legacy he's left beyond basketball.

Yao Ming, the 7-foot-6 All-Star and global icon, is reportedly retiring after nine seasons in the NBA due to lingering foot and leg injuries.

Yahoo! Sports first reported the retirement, citing sources from the league. The *Houston Chronicle* later confirmed the report, but said no official paperwork had been filed.

John Huizinga, one of Yao's American agents, said Yao will host a press conference on July 20 to talk about his future.

Yao, who averaged 19.0 points and 9.2 rebounds per game in his NBA career, was the top overall pick in the 2002 draft. But his promising career has been hampered by foot and ankle problems: he played in just five games over the past two seasons.

Yao turns 31 in September, and a person close to him said he decided the risk of another injury and subsequent rehab was too great.

But Yao did much in little time.

(Agencies)



All-Star center Yao Ming is reportedly retiring after nine NBA seasons.

Don Emmert/IC/Photo

The third eye

National image needs an army of Yao

By Huang Daohen

"Those beat-up legs that cut short seasons, and eventually a career, would never have sat still for China's greatest moment," wrote Brian Mahoney for the Associated Press.

Wang Jin, chief editor of *The Beijing News'* sport section, could not agree more.

To many, the retirement of Yao signals an end to hopes that a Chinese player can lead the NBA, but Wang believes Yao, already an ambassador for the Chinese in the US, will do well in his life after basketball.

Yao was not the first Chinese player to play in the US, but he certainly has been the most important. Due to his presence and impact in the NBA, Wang said the big man from China has evolved into a global icon and helped the NBA expand throughout China and across Asia.

Millions of Chinese people started to watch the NBA after Yao, and lots of people in the US learned about China through him. "That is what we call soft power, and it has been a great boost for the national

image," Wang said.

The country started to build and promote its national image beginning with the 2008 Olympic Games. Earlier this year, a national image commercial was shown in New York, which started a debate about how to better market Chinese culture.

To this end, a Yao is more effective than 10 promotional campaigns, Wang said.

In terms of culture, China is merely an importer, Wang said.

To enhance the soft power and build a

good national image, a country should focus on its people with culture that can represent itself most vividly, he said.

There are plenty of examples in other countries: South Korea exports TV dramas and movies, France has fashion brands like Louis Vuitton, and the US is king of pop culture.

Soft power is something that, once you see it, you feel it and want to learn more about it, Wang said. "China's soft power should be an army of Yao Mings," he said.

宽视野 宽生活

尚色SUNSHINE

时尚双周刊
隆重推出

INTRODUCE
WITH HONOR

TEL: 65902080 65902580 E-mail: shangse@163.com

New name for small business

"Micro-enterprises" next focus of government support

By Huang Daohen

They are small and privately owned. They make ordinary, but increasingly good products. Most importantly, they start from nothing.

Now they have an official name: micro-enterprises.

In a country where the economy has been dominated by state-owned enterprises, this move signals a policy shift. It may be official recognition that China's economic dynamism owes much to the entrepreneurs.



Lone entrepreneurs are included in the new policy to support small and medium-sized enterprises.

Mai Tian/CFP Photo

Out from nothing

When talking about the country's private businesses and entrepreneurs, one place cannot be missed: Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province.

The area is not famous for its resources – indeed, Wenzhou's greatest gift to its businessmen was to provide them with nothing.

The city is mountains and rivers, and only 10 years ago did it gained access to railways, roads and airports. In the past, Wenzhou was cut off from all but the sea.

"People thought that made it the wrong place for public investment," said Huang Wensheng, who grew up in Wenzhou and now heads two export companies in Beijing.

As a result, what business did exist there was largely private. Huang's experience was typical. The 35-year-old dropped out of high school in the 1990s to become an apprentice at a textile factory. He then became a printer, shoe maker, clothing exporter, wine importer and, most recently, a property investor.

Such anecdotes are endless.

Another native of Wenzhou surnamed Ma left school at the age of 14. In the 1980s, he borrowed 300 yuan from a relative and bought a textile machine and ticket for a 40-hour rail ride to the remote northwest. There, he sold the machine for 600 yuan.

Orders began flooding in, and Ma went on to sell construction materials and then become a machinery manufacturer.

Today he employs more than 100 people.

New criteria

Wenzhou businessmen like Huang and Ma are by any measure tycoons.

Ma sent his two sons, one 15 years old and one 9, to the US for a better education. Their means of support remains in China.

"Small businesses are vibrant, and that is why they are able to drive China's remarkable success."

But business today is more complicated than moving machinery from south to north.

"With the increasing cost of raw materials and labor, small enterprises in the south are buckling," Huang said.

Money is needed for urgent industrial upgrades, but banks are reluctant to lend to small businesses, he said.

Zhao Xiao, an economist at University of Science and Technology Beijing, said he found that an increasing number of small enterprises are closing up or scaling back production.

Statistics from the Ministry of Commerce show that 16 percent of the country micro-enterprises reported losses in the first two months of the year, a 0.3 percent increase.

But more telling is that their revenues during the same period fell 23 percent year-on-year.

Zhao said these troubles may be why the government unveiled its new "micro-enterprise" classification on July 4.

The revised Categorizing Criteria for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, last updated in 2003, introduces the concept of micro-enterprises.

Under the new criteria, companies with fewer than 10 employees in retail, catering and IT, and which generate no more than 3 million yuan in annual revenue, are classified as micro-enterprises, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said.

For sectors like manufacturing and transportation, the criteria are adjusted to allow for no more than 20 employees.

Self-employed individuals, previously excluded, are covered under the new classifications.

There are currently 84 categories, 362 sub-divisions and 859 classifications for companies in the country. Together, they account for nearly 90 percent of the country's occupations, the ministry said.

More financial support

The move indicates that there will be more policy support for small and micro-enterprises and that the government is encouraging low-income earners to start a business, Zhao said.

Compared with the old version, Zhao said the new criteria are more detailed, comprehensive and accurate. "That will help small enterprises if the local government adopts accordingly concrete policies to better finance them," he said.

Like any growing enterprises, micro-enterprises need capital: 300 yuan for a textile machine is a fantasy in 2011.

But Zhao said current funding sources for micro enterprises in cities like Wenzhou are a bit of a mystery: they are largely unofficial.

Though the government has made increasing efforts to fund small firms, very little seems to come from the big, state-owned banks, Zhao said.

Statistics show that loans to micro-enterprises are less

than 4 percent of the big banks' total loans.

Ma, whose factory is also in need of money, said 90 percent of Wenzhou's residents and 60 percent of its business draw on funds outside the banking system.

Ma said that there are 100,000 people in his hometown who could each raise 1 billion yuan within two days.

But those loans come at a high cost: most have interest rates of 10 percent for 30 days.

Future economic energy

Zhao said that even though it will be a while before the new rules trickle down, they are a sign that the government recognizes the importance of micro-enterprises.

In a government report, Premier Wen Jiabao said the government would strive to develop micro-enterprises, especially in the fields of industrial services and innovative technologies.

Another sign of the economic energy of private businesses can be found in their rate of growth. The Ministry of Commerce said that the number of registered micro-enterprises grew by more than 30 percent each year between 2000 and 2009.

Its figure did not include unregistered businesses, such as the millions of people conducting trade using online platforms like Taobao.

There are no official figures about how much these small companies contribute to the country's economy, but experts estimate that 90 percent of the country's 43 million companies are private, and they employ 92 percent of all Chinese workers.

But that isn't why small business is so important.

Small businesses are vibrant, and that is why they are able to drive China's remarkable success, Zhao said.

Europe confident about Chinese cars

By Zhao Hongyi

French consultancy Roland Berger said in its latest report that Chinese carmakers are guaranteed to produce environmentally-friendly vehicles.

That could mean great opportunities for European partners.

The report was passed to a number of prospective businesses by the company's senior partner John Shen this week.

It showed how the Chinese car industry is marching into the world market with a dizzying number of small, low-cost cars and electric hybrids.

The domestic auto market grew by 35 percent each year between 2001 and 2007: since then, it has grown 50 percent annually.

The nation sold nearly 11.3 million cars last year, due in part to rising incomes and favorable policies toward car ownership, the report said.

Over the past decade, manufacturers have been releasing as many as 250 new models for the Chinese market each year.

However, the report warns of emerging restrictions.

It listed the rapidly increasing cost of owning and using of vehicles, rising petroleum prices, license plate lotteries and parking fees as things that could slow sales.

"As a result, the automobile market in China may only grow 10 percent this year," it said. In the mean time, the second-hand vehicle market is expected to boom as people upgrade their cars and trucks.

The report said the rate of car ownership remains small despite the size of the population. Only 3 percent of the people own cars, compared to half in the US, 40 percent in Australia and 25 percent in Japan.

In its 12th Five-Year Plan, the central government said the country would consolidate vehicle manufacturers and help them develop new-energy vehicles.

The plan is an important industrial guideline, and its stated targets have historically been aggressively pursued, the report said. It forecasted a number of industry mergers in the next five years.

"Diversified products, creative designs and low cost are the most important elements to compete in this market," the report said.

It also emphasized that a strong sales network will be important to companies looking to survive fierce competition during the next few years.

China's automobile brands have been very aggressive in the world market the past decade, the report said.

For instance, Chery Automobile and Great Wall have opened dozens of factories in other developing countries.

"It is expected that these Chinese brands will enter the sophisticated markets like the US and Europe in the near future," the report said.

Freed snakes disturb local residents

By Li Zhixin

Recently, hundreds of snakes were found moving across streets in Huairou and Yanqing districts, causing widespread panic among nearby residents.

It was eventually discovered that a group of philanthropists released the captive snakes in the areas at the end of last month.

Liu Hongbin, the organizer of the event, said the group released 40 boxes of snakes weighing 500 kilograms, and that all the snakes were bought from a snake base where they were fated to become dried meat.

Lu Man, one of the participants in the event, said in order to avoid obstruction or punish-

ment from the Municipal Forestry Bureau, the group drove to Yeshanpo scenic spot on the border of Hebei Province to release the snakes at night. However, they never thought the snakes would crawl down the mountain and disturb locals.

"There are dozens of dead snakes which were killed by passing cars and trucks on the street," said a villager in Laishu County, Hebei Province. "The snakes have made locals nervous. Some residents have asked their children not to play in the nearby hills."

The local forestry administration said it will enact measures — which remain undefined — to decrease the snake population if necessary.

Comment

Casual liberation is illegal

Most people think freeing captive animals is a good move, but doing it without notifying the relevant administrative department is illegal.

Few people know this and are unaware that you need to report such behavior to local forestry authorities. Our publicizing of laws is inadequate.

— Yin Jianping, a lawyer at Tiandiren law office

A virtuous intent

The act of freeing animals finds a philosophical justification in Buddhism and is popular in East Asian countries.

Wildlife rehabilitation in foreign countries like the UK is a strict and scientific discipline. Enthusiasm alone can't make you become a wildlife rehabilitator. Certificates

and training are needed.

Freeing animals is becoming a way to gain merit and virtue. People are doing it for themselves and not the animals.

— Shou Tuo, member of a science promotion association

Threat to local environment

If animals that have strong adaptability and reproductive capability were released, they could seriously disturb the ecological balance.

And if the released animals are carriers of certain diseases, it could be disaster.

Before freeing captive animals, studies have to be conducted to make sure the local environment can support their presence.

— Xing Aiping, office worker in the central business district

Animal dealers may take advantage of people's mercy

If people always free captive animals through buying them on the market, they can be exploited by animal dealers who jack up prices. It sounds like people are helping the wicked perpetuate wicked deeds.

— Lin Shuang, college student

Blindly freeing destroys life

Don't torture these animals again. Animals who are used to living in captivity lack safety and survival instincts. They will easily starve to death if they are casually released. And they can be killed by predators. In this sense, freeing captive animals is actually a death sentence.

— Duan Qigang, an editor at China Social Sciences Academic Press

Too hot to conserve water?

By Wei Xi

Last month Happy Magic Water Cube, the supposed largest water park in the world, opened at the National Aquatic Center.

The Water Cube has received 30,000 visitors every day since its opening.

In order to serve such a large number of visitors, the Water Cube needs to maintain a storage of 8,000 tons of water, and refill it with 10 tons of tap water per day, according to a report in *China Business Herald*.

Although Hu Kanping, a Chinese environmentalist, said 10 tons wasn't a lot of water for such a huge park, journalists from *Beijing Evening News* expressed doubt over the number after they discovered that a much smaller water park in Tuanjiehu Park required more than 100 tons of water every day.

Either way, there's another question: since Beijing is undergoing severe water shortage, is it appropriate to use this water for recreation?

Beijing's per capita water supply is less than 100 cubic meters, much lower than the international average of 1,000 cubic meters, *China Business Herald* reported.



The newly opened Happy Magic Water Cube claims to be the largest water park in the world.

CFP Photo

Comment

No need to compete with the world on such project

I am totally not in favor of the Happy Magic Water Cube project. We have a severe water shortage here in Beijing, which is driving up the price of tap water. Such a project is vying for water resources with local residents and not in accordance with the city's green development goals.

Besides, such a project costs a lot of money, which could be used to help the poor. In all, there's no need to compete with the world to see who can

build the largest water park.

— Han Naiyi, 57, retiree

The water should be used for the benefit of people

I think using so much water per day while the rest of the city is about to dry out is a waste of resources. But when I think about it, swimming pools are pretty nice: it gives people a place to go in the summer heat. We need to save our resources, but we need to have a little fun every now and then too.

— Carmen Horsch, 41, from Spain

The question is whether the water can be recycled

I have only been in Beijing for six months, so I don't have in-depth information on the water situation here. I am also not inclined to go to a water park, as my children are grown and I prefer swimming in a lake. Water activities are a wonderful family activity, and when it is hot, this is a great way to have fun and cool off.

Beijing is hot in the summer and it has few places for swimming. Eight thousand tons of water is a lot. My

question is, can the water be refiltered and reused?

— Donna Katek, 58, from the US

Such project promotes economic growth

The market economy allows one to do this, and as long as he or she uses the water reasonably, no one should be blamed. The park paid the water fee just like everyone else, and its project can promote summer economic growth.

— Gu Yuefei, 25, sales clerk

American president's half-brother blazes his own trail

By Xinji Letu

Although he just oversaw the publication of the Chinese version of his semi-autobiography, *Nairobi to Shenzhen*, last month, Mark Obama Ndesandjo, the half-brother of US President Barack Obama, is already thinking about his next project: writing a book about the Chinese literary masterpiece *Dream of the Red Chamber*.

So it is for Ndesandjo, a modern Renaissance man who bears multiple titles in China: writer, calligrapher, pianist, charity worker and businessman.

Ndesandjo, who has lived in China for about nine years and is married to a Chinese woman, calls himself an "old China hand."

After making his first visit to Asia in 2001 while studying for an executive MBA at Emory University, Ndesandjo decided to move to China because he loved "the place, and particularly the warmth of the people."

"After 9/11, I decided I wanted

to start a new life," he said. "My dream was to come to China and learn the culture, do a little business and some charity work."

Since then, Ndesandjo, 45, has been working as a business consultant in Shenzhen, the immigrant city and Special Economic Zone that he calls a "free boom town."

After growing up in a troubled household with a violent, alcoholic father, Ndesandjo said helping disadvantaged children is one of the main focuses for him in China.

He has been giving piano lessons to orphans in and around Shenzhen for more than seven years – Ndesandjo has three piano CDs to his name.

Early last year, he held a charity concert for victims of the devastating earthquake in Sichuan in 2008. Fifteen percent of his writing revenue will go toward helping orphans.

"This is something that I need to do. It is like breathing. It makes my life richer and more worth-



Ndesandjo plays piano at a charity event in Shenzhen.

CFP Photo

while," he said.

In April Ndesandjo and Sheraton Hotels organized a calligraphy demonstration and book signing benefit in Shenzhen to help kids in disaster areas around the world. More than 300,000 yuan was raised and will be disbursed through UNICEF, according to Ndesandjo's personal website.

"I always feel good to know that

I have helped someone. I believe most people, given the opportunity, would do the same," he said.

As an HSK-certified advanced speaker and writer of Chinese, Ndesandjo also appears as an avid brush calligrapher. During his book signing ceremony in Beijing last month, Ndesandjo stamped each book with a personal red seal, engraved with his Chinese name, to show how

much he loves Chinese culture.

Ndesandjo said his daily life in China involves many aspects: studying Chinese, business management and strategy consulting, playing the piano, writing and teaching kids at the orphanage to play piano.

"I try to make sure that I set aside a little time each day to do these things. Sometimes, because of public engagements, I fall behind, but I always catch up later," he said.

As recognition of his work, Ndesandjo has been appointed Volunteer Image Ambassador and Special Olympics Image Ambassador by China.

In the future, Ndesandjo said, he will continue his business, music, charity and writing in China. "One of my more recent projects is to write a book about *Dream of the Red Chamber*. I also want to encourage more people in China to volunteer to help the less advantaged."

Photo exhibition calls for respect for nature



One of Florian Möllers's works

By Wei Xi

The "Wild Wonders of Europe" photo exhibition had its opening ceremony on Monday at Seasons Place, a shopping mall on Financial Street, where it will stay until July 19.

Fifty-eight photographs focusing on nature and wild animals were displayed, calling for urbanites to pay attention to and respect nature.

Forty-eight of the works were taken by members of Wild Wonders of Europe, the largest photography-based conservation group in the world, while the other 10 came from Chinese photographers.

Wild Wonders of Europe counts 69 expert nature and animal photographers from 19 European countries.

With a mission to share the world's natural wonders, the recent exhibition took 16 months and about 1,000 collective hours to produce. About 100,000 photographs were snapped in 50 European national parks.

Endangered animals such as the sperm whale, gray wolf and brown bear were among the photo subjects.

Florian Möllers, a 40-year-old

Germany nature photographer and writer, is one of the founders of Wild Wonders of Europe. He said nowadays, many people, especially those living in big cities, have little contact with nature and therefore have little knowledge about how fascinating the wild can be.

"By sharing the photos, we hope people can pay deeper respect to nature," Möllers said. "We need to take care of nature, without which we cannot survive."

Möllers has taken many photos of animals, but his favorite is of a deer living in Denmark.

When taking deer pictures, Möllers has to stay at a distance. Like all animal photographers, he has to exercise extreme patience to do his job, but he doesn't complain. On the contrary, he thinks it's a privilege for him to be a photographer.

"The deer, and other animals, have feelings like human beings," he said. "We of course do not want to be seen when we are kissing, and neither do they."

Möllers had also traveled to Pingyao, Shanxi Province; Lijiang, Yunnan Province and Shaanxi province, where he took a lot of photos



Florian Möllers hopes that by sharing photos, people can learn to respect nature.

Photos provided by Bao Jun

of Chinese golden monkeys.

Fu Bing, general manager of the Shanghai-based magazine *The Bund* and co-organizer of

the exhibition, said organizers decided to hold the exhibition in the city center because they hoped these pictures would bring

nature closer to city dwellers and get them to pay closer attention to the natural environment around them.



2011 CHINA OPEN

9.25 — 10.9



BEIJING · NATIONAL TENNIS CENTER

China Open Hotline
400-707-6666
 Taobao
chinaopen.tmall.com
 Official ticketing agent
 Ticket hotline
400-708-6016
 Ticketing website
www.shuilaoticket.com

Presenting Sponsor



Platinum Sponsors



Official China Open Website
www.chinaopen.com.cn



Anyone can become an art collector at the fair

By Xinji Letu

The biggest fair for young artists and their affordable work begins next Monday at Times Art Museum and CITC Atrium near the central business district (CBD).

The First CBD Affordable Art Festival will last until July 24, with lots of works from more than 100 emerging local artists.

"We are featuring more than 125 artists and around 800 paintings, which is huge compared with similar events before," said Elena Goncharova, chief organizer of the festival.

This festival is the first event of its kind in the CBD area, Goncharova said.

"Traffic is highest in this area, so we can attract more collectors than anywhere else. Our slogan is: become an art collector with us!"

Goncharova said prices of works range from 1,000 to 10,000 yuan, which she thinks is reasonably affordable for good art.

"The main idea is to offer people who were not interested in art a chance to develop a personal interest," she said.

The works that will be exhibited come from popular young artists and even some art students.

"We are trying to work with more young artists, some of whom have not yet graduated from art school. We are really trying to find new talent, follow them and develop them," Goncharova said.

Unlike other fairs that just offer "cheap art," this festival will keep an eye on the artists' market potential.



Artist Xu Ke's work Growing Pain

Photo provided by The First CBD Affordable Art Festival

"We are hoping that with their talent and our help, [some young artists] will become famous very soon," Goncharova said.

The diversity of exhibits is one of main focuses of the festival, from oil paintings and sculptures to photography and digital works.

"We are trying to exhibit a different range of artists, style and techniques, both contemporary

and classic," Goncharova said.

The works will be shown at both an indoor museum (Times Art Museum) and outdoor space (CITC Atrium).

Some artists are very optimistic about the exhibition, Goncharova said. "It is the first exhibition in a museum for many of the young artists," she said. "They said they will invite their family members and friends to see their

works on the wall."

Goncharova also has high hopes for this art fair because she believes it's a worthy thing to do, as she has been in the art business for five years and organized similar events in the past.

"Based on how this one goes, we are hoping to continue the affordable art festival every three or six months in the future," she said.

Handicraft lovers, unite

By Wei Xi

The Beijing Guild, intended to promote an international community, was created for those who are interested in knitting, crocheting and needlework. They meet Tuesday afternoons to welcome lovers of handiwork.

The group has 60 registered members, and 15 to 20 people come together at a member's home to chat and exchange ideas each week.

Katalina Chalova, a 26-year-old Russian ballet teacher, and her mother Elizabet Chalova attended their second session last Tuesday.

"People here are sociable and kind," Elizabet Chalova said.

Vilma Busquets, who has been in the guild for about three months, said she was introduced by an Irish friend and learned to knit there.

"I like crafts, but before I joined the community I didn't know it would be so fun and relaxing," said Busquets. "People here welcomed me with open arms, and whenever I made a mistake they came over to help fix it."

Ester Gomez, from Spain, is the organizer of The Beijing Guild. She said she got the idea from the Shanghai Guild, a community for knitters, and was inspired by later encounters with craft lovers in town.

"Last year, I taught knitting for a few months at The Hutong and



The Beijing Guild gathers at organizer Ester Gomez's home.

Photo by Wei Xi

I had the chance to meet many people who were interested in crafts," Gomez said. "We started meeting weekly at different houses, and later on, I discussed the idea of formalizing the group with some of these people."

Gomez said members can bring their own yarn and tools or buy directly from her. She has a variety of choices from Italy,

Spain and China.

Although most members are knitting lovers, Gomez said she does not want to limit the group to people who knit.

"That's why we decided to call it The Beijing Guild, so that people who crochet or sew can also join us," she said.

Gomez is thinking about finding a charity to sell their

products to.

"We are currently evaluating different choices and will select a charity to work with within the next couple of weeks," she said.

The Beijing Guild

When: 1-4 pm, every Tuesday

Cost: Free

Email:

contact@beijingguild.com

Website: beijingguild.com

Event

Yoga in Chaoyang Park

Beijing may not have alpine meadows or crystal clear streams, but there sure are lots of parks. Head out into the open air for some yoga. One group of yoga fans is meeting every week with a certified instructor. Sessions are fun, relaxing and informative.

Where: Chaoyang Park,

When: 5-6:30 pm, Sunday every week

Cost: 100 yuan for a class, and 650 yuan for a whole session of eight classes

Email:

yogawithyionnie@gmail.com

Electric Bike Night Tours

Want to explore something interesting at night? Get on your e-bikes and join us in this adventurous experience. Visit bjebiketours.com for detailed information about the tours.

Where: Unit 1202, Tower 2, Building A, FengHua Towers, Xuanwu District

When: 6:30-10:30 pm, Friday every week

Cost: 300 yuan (including dinner)

Email:

momo.qing.han@163.com

Wine fever on Wednesdays

All wine lovers, attention please! You can enjoy wines on weekdays, too. Every Wednesday night at Enoterra, a bottle of wine for at least 200 yuan will get you unlimited Tapas. Call on your friends and enjoy a wine night.

Where: Enoterra, D405, Nali Huayuan, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Sanlitun

When: 8-11:30 pm, Wednesday every week

Cost: Varies

Tel: 5208 6076

Learn about Peking Opera

This weekend is your chance to have close contact with Peking Opera. Activities include learning about characters, facial makeup and acting. Experts will sing some famous arias and perform some movements.

Where: Sanlitun Soho, Nan Salitun Lu, Chaoyang District (opposite Yashow)

When: Saturday, 3-5 pm

Cost: Free

Tel: 8590 0898

Hutong tour

Beijing's hutong are full of mysterious stories, legends and culture. Explore the hidden history of Old Beijing and experience the daily life of a Beijinger.

Where: 1 Jiudaowan Hutong, Beixinqiao, Dongcheng District

When: 10 am - noon, Saturday every three weeks

Email:

info@thehutong.com

Cost: 120 yuan per person (including snacks and teas)

(By Wei Xi)

Passengers can request full refund after long train delay

By Yao Weijie

Nineteen bullet trains were delayed on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway due to power failure on Sunday, and another 50 bullet trains were delayed Tuesday for the same reason.

Passengers can get a full refund from the railway station if boarding is delayed for four hours. Passengers who have already boarded the train cannot get a full refund, the Beijing Railway Department said.

A failure in the power grid caused a one-hour delay on Sunday and an almost four-hour delay on Tuesday.

The railway department said full refunds were not possible on those days because the train eventually took all passengers to their final destination. Partial compensation is possible, but the specific amount is still under discussion.

"If passengers wait for a long time and can't get on the train because of a blizzard, flood or other disaster, the railway department will give a full refund," a staff member from the Beijing Railway Department

said. "The cancellation charge is 20 percent of the ticket price."

Passengers on trains that arrive late can be compensated by the difference in price between the express train and normal train.

The high-speed railway has shaken up the airline industry since it began operations on June 30. The railway department claims punctuality among its advantages.

Travelers are also able to make calls on the train and use the Internet if they have a wireless network card.

"I will reconsider choosing the high-speed railway as my preferred means of transportation after these two incidents," said Chen Qian, a journalist with Reuters China. "If the high-speed trains are not punctual, then they'll never compete with the airlines."

"I hope that relevant departments can publish compensation measures for high-speed train delays as soon as possible. At least in this respect, the airlines don't have any specific provisions."



Bullet train delays have made many doubt their punctuality and safety. CFP Photo

New regulations released to avoid mid-lease rent hikes

By Yao Weijie

As housing and living costs are skyrocketing, an increasing number of tenants are dealing with landlords who ask for more rent.

To protect tenants' rights, the Beijing government announced revised provisions for the management of the capital's housing lease policy on Wednesday.

The regulation has already been implemented.

The new provisions forbid landlords from increasing rent and shortening lease dates during the rental period without the consent of the tenant.

If the landlord wants to sell his or her house, he or she needs to notify the tenant within a reasonable time. The tenant has first priority in buying the house. Regardless of ownership changes, the lease contract must

be honored.

The government has also taken measures to sustain the rental market, preventing real estate agents from artificially forcing up rent.

Here are some tips for foreigners renting in Beijing:

- Normally in Beijing, the tenant should pay the broker's fee if rent is less than 3,000 yuan, while the landlord pays if rent exceeds 3,000 yuan.

- Avoid signing rental contracts without landlords present. Don't sign with middlemen.

- You have to pay for satellite TV charges, parking fees, cleaning fees, water and electricity, but management and heating fees should be covered by the landlord.

- You must register with the local police within 24 hours of changing address. Otherwise, you may be subject to fines.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

My husband is Chinese and I am French. We decided to move to China and I am thinking about applying for a job, but I don't have a higher education degree. My Chinese is passable though. Can you give me some advice on what kinds of jobs are suitable for me?

Many foreigners, especially foreign students studying in China, choose to be foreign language teachers at private schools or to work as tutors. There are lots of schools in Beijing, and many Chinese want to learn Romance languages such as French and Spanish. That you can speak Chinese is an advantage, but really, students prefer very foreign teachers.

I am traveling to Beijing in a few days and plan to buy T-shirts that depict Beijing or China on it. Should I go to Yashow or the Zoo Market? What's a reasonable price for a shirt?

For T-shirts, I would suggest the store near the Water Cube on the Olympic Green, which sells lots of souvenirs. A T-shirt there goes for about 100 yuan.

Stores on Nanluogu Xiang have many interesting products, but because it's a touristy place, the prices won't be low.

A lot of people, especially expats, go to Yashow, but the Zoo Market is more popular among students for its small vendors. You can find cheaper things there.

(By Wei Xi)

News u can use

BEIJING TODAY Editor: Wei Ying Designer: Zhao Yan

SUBSCRIBE
to **BEIJING TODAY**
For **gift!**

Hotline: 010-65902513, 65902534, 65902626 (voice message function is on for 24 hrs)
Email: bjtoday@beijingtoday.com.cn Web: www.beijingtoday.com.cn

How TO GET A GIFT

a gift card worth 200 yuan valid as cash at Goose & Duck Pub

Beijing Today one-year subscription costs 104 yuan. You can get a Goose and Duck gift card worth 200 yuan. Stocks are limited, so subscribe as soon as possible.



Dancing to the mainland

Hong Kong choreographers chase dreams in Beijing

By He Jianwei

Two Hong Kong choreographers have broken from the usual path of the graduate. Rather than sign with a major company or teach in a dancer center, they decided to found a studio and create their own works.

With the dance market shrinking in Hong Kong, both are looking to the mainland for a new audience as they produce new programs every month. It's a tough road, but youth is the time for achieving dreams.

"In Hong Kong, the people who come are dedicated modern dance fans. In Beijing you get a better mix. A photographer will interpret a dance differently from a musician."

"I want to show them that the feeling of modern dance is easier to understand at close range. It's not just an expression of abstract, depressive emotions."

"You need more rhythm in your pace," the choreographer said. He was talking to a group of dancers Tuesday afternoon at Nine Theater. The dancers are rehearsing for a program set to open in two weeks.

At the corner of the stage, another dancer practices her steps silently for a new September program.

That was when he met Xie, who was investing in a Beijing studio. Poon came to Beijing to find a place to set up his studio.

Poon graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2009, where he majored in contemporary dance. After graduation he worked for Hong Kong Dance Company on a short-term contract, participating in chore dance and educational programs to promote dance in colleges and schools.

It took a month for them to rehearse each other's works. Poon's first performance was in 2009, where he received 10,000 tickets (5,000 yuan) for each performance.

After three months, he realized that the life was not what he wanted. He felt no sense of achievement, and had no hope of

achieving anything meaningful with the pitiful budget allocated to new choreographers. He decided to go to Beijing to find a place to set up his studio.

He found a place in Beijing. Poon said that the mainland and Hong Kong, he said, are very different. In Hong Kong, the people who come are dedicated modern dance fans. In Beijing you go to theater, you see the same people and they ask the same questions. It's hard to draw a new face," Poon said.

That was when he met Xie, who was investing in a Beijing studio. Poon came to Beijing to find a place to set up his studio.

Poon graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2009, where he majored in contemporary dance. After graduation he worked for Hong Kong Dance Company on a short-term contract, participating in chore dance and educational programs to promote dance in colleges and schools.

It took a month for them to rehearse each other's works. Poon's first performance was in 2009, where he received 10,000 tickets (5,000 yuan) for each performance.

After three months, he realized that the life was not what he wanted. He felt no sense of achievement, and had no hope of

tract with Nine Theater to provide one year of new programming. It's cut from both the mainland and Hong Kong, he said. Poon said that the freelance choreographer and dancer in Hong Kong, he said, are very different. In Hong Kong, the people who come are dedicated modern dance fans. In Beijing you go to theater, you see the same people and they ask the same questions. It's hard to draw a new face," Poon said.

That was when he met Xie, who was investing in a Beijing studio. Poon came to Beijing to find a place to set up his studio.

Poon graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2009, where he majored in contemporary dance. After graduation he worked for Hong Kong Dance Company on a short-term contract, participating in chore dance and educational programs to promote dance in colleges and schools.

It took a month for them to rehearse each other's works. Poon's first performance was in 2009, where he received 10,000 tickets (5,000 yuan) for each performance.

After three months, he realized that the life was not what he wanted. He felt no sense of achievement, and had no hope of

some from maestro, but this is where I felt I could really use all my skills. After all, one of Poon's projects was to make a modern dance performance. Poon said that the freelance choreographer and dancer in Hong Kong, he said, are very different. In Hong Kong, the people who come are dedicated modern dance fans. In Beijing you go to theater, you see the same people and they ask the same questions. It's hard to draw a new face," Poon said.

That was when he met Xie, who was investing in a Beijing studio. Poon came to Beijing to find a place to set up his studio.

Poon graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2009, where he majored in contemporary dance. After graduation he worked for Hong Kong Dance Company on a short-term contract, participating in chore dance and educational programs to promote dance in colleges and schools.

It took a month for them to rehearse each other's works. Poon's first performance was in 2009, where he received 10,000 tickets (5,000 yuan) for each performance.

After three months, he realized that the life was not what he wanted. He felt no sense of achievement, and had no hope of

they understood why the movements were in a monotonous rhythm and why I put the music in the background. Poon said that the freelance choreographer and dancer in Hong Kong, he said, are very different. In Hong Kong, the people who come are dedicated modern dance fans. In Beijing you go to theater, you see the same people and they ask the same questions. It's hard to draw a new face," Poon said.

That was when he met Xie, who was investing in a Beijing studio. Poon came to Beijing to find a place to set up his studio.

Poon graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2009, where he majored in contemporary dance. After graduation he worked for Hong Kong Dance Company on a short-term contract, participating in chore dance and educational programs to promote dance in colleges and schools.

It took a month for them to rehearse each other's works. Poon's first performance was in 2009, where he received 10,000 tickets (5,000 yuan) for each performance.

After three months, he realized that the life was not what he wanted. He felt no sense of achievement, and had no hope of



Ivy Tsai's Beams at Kubrick Bookstore Photo by Roojjang



Ivy Tsai's Beams explores the relationship between dance and the objects in a bookstore. Photo by Roojjang

Wayson Poon's Untitled is inspired by artist Liu Wentao's abstract paintings. Photo by X-IMAGE

some from maestro, but this is where I felt I could really use all my skills. After all, one of Poon's projects was to make a modern dance performance. Poon said that the freelance choreographer and dancer in Hong Kong, he said, are very different. In Hong Kong, the people who come are dedicated modern dance fans. In Beijing you go to theater, you see the same people and they ask the same questions. It's hard to draw a new face," Poon said.

That was when he met Xie, who was investing in a Beijing studio. Poon came to Beijing to find a place to set up his studio.

Poon graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2009, where he majored in contemporary dance. After graduation he worked for Hong Kong Dance Company on a short-term contract, participating in chore dance and educational programs to promote dance in colleges and schools.

It took a month for them to rehearse each other's works. Poon's first performance was in 2009, where he received 10,000 tickets (5,000 yuan) for each performance.

After three months, he realized that the life was not what he wanted. He felt no sense of achievement, and had no hope of

they understood why the movements were in a monotonous rhythm and why I put the music in the background. Poon said that the freelance choreographer and dancer in Hong Kong, he said, are very different. In Hong Kong, the people who come are dedicated modern dance fans. In Beijing you go to theater, you see the same people and they ask the same questions. It's hard to draw a new face," Poon said.

That was when he met Xie, who was investing in a Beijing studio. Poon came to Beijing to find a place to set up his studio.

Poon graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2009, where he majored in contemporary dance. After graduation he worked for Hong Kong Dance Company on a short-term contract, participating in chore dance and educational programs to promote dance in colleges and schools.

It took a month for them to rehearse each other's works. Poon's first performance was in 2009, where he received 10,000 tickets (5,000 yuan) for each performance.

After three months, he realized that the life was not what he wanted. He felt no sense of achievement, and had no hope of



Founded in 2010 in Beijing, SMX Studio plans to use body language to break the boundaries of traditional dance. Photo by X-IMAGE

Exploring the spirit of the vagrant



Shuihu and the Circle of the Vagrants
By Wang Xuetai, 253pp, Shaanxi People's Publishing House, 39.8 yuan

By Wei Xi

With a great land area, long history and massive population, China has developed a way of life quite different from that of other nations.

It's unsurprising then that China, as well as its people, has been a topic of scholarly curiosity for hundreds of years.

The Good Earth, by American novelist Pearl S. Buck, is one of many such works that explore the lives of the nation's peasants.

Wang Xuetai's new book, *Shuihu and the Circle of the Vagrants*, focuses on another marginalized majority in Chinese society: the vagrants.

The Water Margin, written by 14th century novelist Shi Nai'an, is one of China's four most famous classics. The story follows the founding and collapse of a rebel organization during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Its members were vagrants.

Throughout most of its history, China has been a feudal society. The exploitation of peasant labor was essential, and most people were born into a life of service that would be spent tilling a rich man's land.

Relationships were built on blood, and people were subject both to the will of their family patriarch and the autocratic lord or monarch who owned the land they worked.

But with the growth in family sizes, many people left the traditional clan network to become vagrants.

Without any land and protection, these people struggled to make a living on the harsh fringe of society. After years of work and struggle, their style of thought was captured in literary and artistic works, which formed the basis for vagrant culture – a system that elevated brotherhood, loyalty and credibility above all else.

But not all vagrants entered the life for economic reasons – many were forced into vagrancy due to political policies.

"In the Song Dynasty, military officers were not treated as well as civil officials and were discriminated against by the society," Wang said. "That is why among the Liangshan Bandits (in *The Water Margin*) there are 30 to 40 former military officers (among the 108 members)."

"Chai Jin, a former feudal noble in *The Water Margin*, belongs to another group," Wang said. "Chai has lived a stable and wealthy life but yearns for the excitement of a life spent in struggle."

Wang said vagrants in the Song Dynasty have many similarities with their modern peers.

"It was difficult for them to live in the cities and especially hard to



Wang Xuetai Photo by Wei Xi

afford a house. Many rented, and others simply slept under a bridge."

These vagrants had an easy time rising up to fight against the social order, Wang said.

"They are usually disadvantaged people who find strength and unity in numbers. They are the kind of people who have the spirit needed to buck the system."

Wang spent most of his 70-year life studying literary history and culture and has written extensively about both.

Shuihu and the Circle of the Vagrants is a continuation of his *Culture of Vagrants*.

"In history, we find a lot of great records of life in the mainstream, but few that explore the lives of vagrants. I hope my book can be a supplement for those who want to understand this large group," Wang said.

The future of business is history

By Yao Weijie

How did Mitsui become a conglomerate with 240,000 employees from its origins as a small silk shop? How did Mitsubishi go from being a bucket workshop to one of the world's largest groups of companies?

These questions and more are the topic of *400 Years of Japanese Business (Riben Shangye Siba Nian)*, the new management book that became one of the top five bestsellers only days after its release.

The author, Chen Wei, is not a white-haired scholar but a young man who learned what made Japanese companies great by working on the ground in Panasonic.

His experiences with the consumer electronics giant inspired him to research more about the history of top Japanese businesses. His first subject, Toyota, turned out to have a long relationship with fellow giant Mitsui.

"Japanese business is seriously misunderstood by the foreign mainstream media," Chen said. "All the talk of a 'lost decade,' when Japan was experiencing an economic recession from 1985 to 1995, was nonsense, as were the *Financial Times*' predictions that China will overtake Japan in the near future."

Chinese and Japanese companies operate under completely different business models. Chen said that even at its worst, the Japanese economy has never had an unhealthy period. The management of its top firms is distinctly Japanese, and does not copy foreign models.

In his book, Chen gives a broad history of the origins of the modern Japanese business landscape.

"There are certainly lessons we can learn from Japan, but it may be too soon for that," Chen said. "What we have to do first is get a clear picture of the Japanese commercial model instead."

Japan's enterprises are part of a Federation of Economic Organizations called the Keidan-



400 years' History of Japanese Business
By Chen Wei, 256pp, Jinghua Publishing House, 34.8 yuan

ren. This group acts to coordinate external expansion and find ways for business to complement one another.

The Japanese government also gives small- and medium-sized enterprises many opportunities to develop. Most companies that master a technology are able to survive, giving the country a rich environment for small businesses.

"I am very glad to see such a book. It is very admirable for Chen to look at Japanese history from another angle – especially since it has long been ignored by China. When reconstruction began after the war (World War II), which direction to develop was a very important question," said Yoshikazu Kato, a writer and scholar from Japan.

"If we have something to learn, I think that must be the spirit of the Japanese people," Chen said.

Bookworm book listing

The Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers.

Mockingbird

By Kathryn Erskine, 256pp, Puffin, \$6.99

Caitlin has Asperger's. Her world is black and white; anything in between is confusing. When life turns complicated, Caitlin used to go to her older brother Devon for help. Now Devon is dead, and Caitlin's dad is too distraught to be helpful. Caitlin wants life to be simple again, but she does not know how she can make it so.

When You Reach Me

By Rebecca Stead, 208pp, Yearling, \$6.99

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend Sal know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it is safe to go and they know who to avoid. However, things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a kid on the street for what seems like no reason and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen, and a mysterious note arrives, scrawled on a tiny slip of paper. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

By Rebecca Skloot, 400pp, Broadway, \$16

Henrietta Lacks, known as HeLa by scientists, was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors. Yet her cells – taken without her knowledge – became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture are alive today, though she has been dead for more than 60 years.

(By He Jianwei)



Heading back to the kitchen

15

Trend



Wang Yuxiang (first on the left), the founder of Douguo, and his team.

Photos provided by Wang Yuxiang

By Chu Meng

Distrust of food safety peaked last month when garbage oil and prohibited additives were found in star-ranked restaurants. Cucumbers at open-air markets tested positive for female hormones, and iced teas from Taiwan were found to hide carcinogens.

Given the soaring costs of eating out, many Beijingers are returning to their kitchens to find ways to prepare safe food. The most extreme have taken to renting plots on the outskirts of town to grow their own organic produce.

Since 30-year-old Jordan Liu announced that his wife was pregnant last month, colleagues rarely see him eating out. He has cancelled unnecessary business dinners and Friday nights out with friends.

He is also bringing a lunch box to work.

"Before, he was a hardcore chauvinist who said men had no place in the kitchen," said one of his colleagues. "When decorating their house, he and his wife even decided to demolish the kitchen and replace it with a mini-bar."

Now he is shopping for fresh vegetables and meat each day.

Liu is one of many people who have gotten hooked on Douguo, a website used by many 20- and 30-somethings who are looking to eat smart and healthy and who enjoy the fruits of their kitchen labor.

"Beijing restaurants are notorious for serving oily food, and carcinogenic additives are seen as essential in Chinese cuisine. That isn't healthy," Liu said. Of course, he is also concerned about the health of his wife and child.

Cooking on his own solved these worries and more.

"My wife was the one who found Douguo. She was looking for healthy recipes for pregnant women. Later on we really got into it," he said.

"I never realized that going to the market to look for ingredients could be such an adventure. Besides, the price of one hamburger can buy enough ground beef to make 15."

An onslaught of food safety scandals and growing curiosity about what traditional Chinese medicine has to say about nutri-

tion has made Douguo a hit. The three-year-old online community hosts original recipes and photos, and allows users to share their cooking experiences.

The website was opened by 31-year-old Wang Yuxiang, a former editor at a publishing house, in 2008.

In the run up to the Olympic Games, Wang was with work and was forced to eat out every day for three months. When vacation came, he returned to his dusty kitchen and wanted to make a good, home-cooked meal.

That was when he realized he didn't know how to cook. Suddenly, he hit on the idea to make a website of easy-to-learn recipes where new cooks could swap experience.

Four people joined him in putting Douguo online and filling it with initial content. When it went live, big food ranking websites like Tiantong were first becoming popular. But none offered step-by-step instructions for basic Chinese recipes that Douguo had.

"I thought it was a shame we were glossing over China's food culture," he said. Douguo soon attracted thousands of registered users and advertisers.

The website's format was inspired by Cookpad, Japan's top recipe sharing community that has been around for 11 years. Cookpad's listing on the Japanese stock market in 2009 gave Douguo's creators a big confidence boost.

"It was the first publicly traded recipe website in the



A group of youngsters rent farm fields in Beijing outskirts and grew vegetables and fruits by their own.



world. It proved that a huge number of people still like cooking at home," Wang said.

Zhu Hong, one of the co-founders, said she loves baking. "Baking is an extraordinary way for me to get rid of a bad mood. I especially love the sweet smell that comes out of the oven. It is the best way to relax after a week of hard work and it brings me a sense of satisfaction when bake for my family," she said.

Inspired by Douguo's community, many people like Guo Bingyan have started to grow their own organic produce.

"Cooking isn't enough for me. Growing my own ingredients is the real way to get in touch with the beauty of nature," Guo said.

She rents three plots in rural Huairou District. Each weekend, she travels there to plow and sow with friends.

"Mushrooms, peas and cole are easy to plant and grow quickly. Strawberries, plums and apples are a bit more time consuming. We harvest our own organic vegetables from the fields each month and take them home to cook," she said.

Now, the number of Guo's ploughing team has grown to more than a hundred.

Other popular recipe sites

1. Cookpad (cookpad.com)

Cookpad's audience is Japanese housewives in their 20s and 40s. It is one of the largest recipe swapping sites in the world with 6.8 million registered members. The site went online in 1997 and is the only publicly traded recipe website. The Japanese-only site has 650,000 recipes submitted by its users.

2. Allrecipes.com

This US recipe website claims to be the world's most popular. It gets more than 435 million visitors every year and has 480,000 recipes on English version. It is available in 17 other languages, including Chinese. The non-English versions are where you find more exotic recipes for local cuisine.

3. Foodista (foodista.com)

Founded by Amazon.com, the site has a wiki interface that allows users to edit common recipes. In addition, it offers nutrition information for most ingredients and agricultural products, explanations of cooking terms like boil, slice and braise, and tips on how to use kitchen appliances. The site links to many famous food bloggers.

Gifts for moms and their children

Porcelain of mother's love



My Dearest Baby, starting at 500 yuan

(starting at 500 yuan) shows a child kissing his mother's cheeks. The figurine's blue dress is done with enamel, adding color to the work.

Lladro

Where: Park Life, 2 Jianguomen Dajie, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6566 6060

By Shi Jianzi

Porcelain is often associated with Chinese or Japanese products, but the Spanish company Lladro is also known for making high-quality porcelain figurines.

Founded in 1953 in the village of Almassera, Spain, its products are available in Beijing, with series based on the theme of the love between mother and child.

"Sweet care" (starting at 500 yuan) features a young mother holding her baby in her arms, looking into his eyes. The work expresses the mother's love towards her child. Her hair floats in the air, illustrating the exacting techniques of Lladro's porcelain makers.

The work "My Dearest Baby" (starting at 500 yuan) features a mother in a long white dress holding up her baby.

"Mother's Love"



Mother's Love, starting at 500 yuan

*Sweet Care, starting at 500 yuan
Photos by Shi Jianzi*

Furniture for children

By Annie Wei

Dara, a local furniture brand popular among expats since 2000, opened its new store, Les Patits Daram, at Lido last month.

Dara mixes and matches Asian and European furniture styles. Although its new store translates to "Dara Children," its style remains, using natural materials such as wood, lush fabric and pottery, only softened.

Also, it's more French vintage.

Small items like bathroom bottles, photo frames and lamps start at 300 yuan. We liked the double-layered cradle (1,980 yuan), suitable for children under two years old. The lower level can store a baby's clothing and toys, which is convenient for new moms and dads. It comes in dark and white colors.

A well-made French vintage closet in light colors costs 3,880 yuan, a wood bed with bamboo-shaped poles costs 19,800 yuan and a white framed baby bed costs 8,000 yuan.

For older children, we recommend its furniture series, such as the colorful French vintage sofa (4,980 yuan) with small silk pillow case (168 yuan).

Some items are also suitable for adults. The shell Mosaic lacquer-finished table (15,980 yuan) is well made.

Apart from Dara's furniture, Shanghai Trio's clothes and accessories are available. We recommend its candy-color raincoat (580 to 680 yuan).

Before Monday, all items are marked down 20 percent.

The store is easy to find, with lovely decorations and green plants outside.

Les Patits Dara

Where: First floor of Building 9, Lidu Hotel Apartment, Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am - 8 pm
Tel: 6437 6330



Silk curtain, 500 yuan per meter



Cradle (1,980 yuan) and bed (19,800 yuan)



Inside Les Patits Dara



Frames, starting at 300 yuan

Photos by Gemini Chen

Dining on water

By Scott Wang

July to October is the capital's peak tourism season. Not only do a lot of tour groups fly in, but family and friends from overseas come expecting a great holiday.

Dining in the old neighborhoods of Beijing is a must. What better way to enjoy the city than renting a boat on Houhai and dining on the lake?

Renting a boat

By Scott Wang

Houhai is a beautiful area rich in history. Its hearty location near the center of the city long ago established it as a hotspot.

During the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911), the Lotus Market near Houhai was a summer meeting spot where a lot of food vendors and street performers gathered to play and eat.

In the last decade, lots of old houses around the lake have been turned into bars, restaurants, shops and teahouses, making the area a tourist magnet.

For an authentic experience, we recommend renting a boat on Houhai, perhaps during the evening, and having a nice dinner on the lake.

Near the end of the Lotus Market on the west side of Houhai, there is a little dock where you can rent boats and order food. The two restaurants the boating company works with are Kaorouji, a time-honored Muslim barbecue restaurant, and Shichahai Club, a fancy new Chinese restaurant.

Food is prepared as part of set menus depending on the number of people, from two to 10. Kaorouji's set menu starts from 138 yuan for two, while Shichahai Club starts from 468 yuan for two. We suggest ordering in advance.

If you order from Shichahai Club, the restaurant will set the entire dinner in your boat just before you take off. If you order from Kaorouji, you can boat across to the other side of the lake and pick up the food there.

Boat rental starts at 60 yuan for a small four-seater and goes up to 600 yuan for a big boat that can seat up to 16 people. You can hire women in qipao to play the guqin for 100 yuan per hour.

There are also two docks on the east side of the lake for renting boats as well.

You can also order food from restaurants not associated with the boating company, or bring food from home.

Lots of fancy restaurants are located around Houhai, including Quanjudu, one of the most famous and oldest Peking duck restaurants; Buffalo, which serves Hunan and Cantonese food; a new restaurant called Tianshui Yingchi, which serves both Chinese and American food like pizza; Yuelu Shanwu, which serves Hunan food; Cangsu, which fuses Sichuan and Cantonese cuisine; Qianhai, which offers Hangzhou food and time-honored Hetongzhu, with its Shandong cuisine.

Lotus Market

Where: 51 Di'anmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am – midnight



Kaorouji's lamb, starting from 68 yuan

Kao Rou Ji

A true time-honored restaurant that's been around since the Qing Dynasty serving Muslim-style barbecue and imperial snacks, especially famous for its barbecued lamb and sesame buns. There is a take-away window selling lamb kabobs (5 yuan) and roasted tanghuoshao, sugar buns.

Where: 14 Qianhai Dongyan, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6404 2554



Hakka tofu, 28 yuan

Laohanzi Restaurant

One of the best-valued restaurants in the lake, offering traditional Hakka dishes like sanbeiya (38 yuan), duck braised in caramelized soy sauce; zhibao luyu (58 yuan), braised perch wrapped in foil paper.

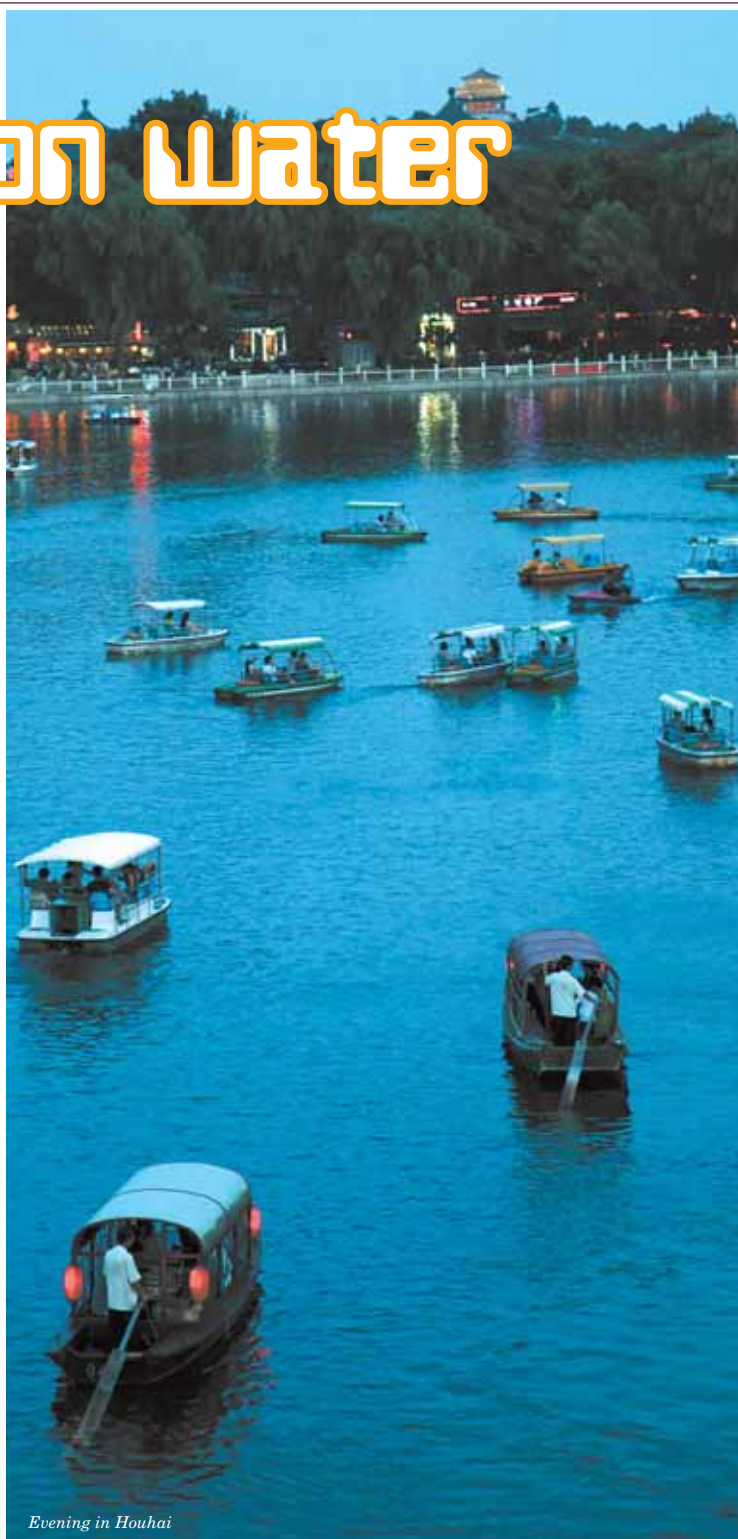
Where: 12 Qianhai Nanyan, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – 3:30 pm, 5-10:30 pm

Tel: 6404 2259



Crispy fried marinated chicken, 68 yuan



Evening in Houhai

Nuage

Nuage's Vietnamese food is made with ingredients that are imported from Saigon, which means they're more flavorful. It also has experienced chefs that make Shandong food. The building that houses Nuage used to be the tallest building by the lake. It has housed many different types of businesses throughout the years.

Where: 22 Qianhai Dongyan, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6401 9581



Hutong Pizza Jiang Nan/CFP Photos

Hutong Pizza

Hutong Pizza is an eatery that serves home-style square pizzas with exotic toppings (60 to 120 yuan). An intense list of beers and wines are also available to enhance the dining experience.

Where: 9 Yindingqiao Hutong, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 8322 8916

New approach to abstract art

By He Jianwei

Feng Lianhong's abstract paintings look like a mottled wall set to a hazy landscape. Throughout his 20-year career, he has created a new language in abstract painting, using influences from abstract expressionism, graffiti and Chinese calligraphy.

Born in 1962 in Shanghai, Feng first fell in love with abstract expressionism when he studied at the Central Academy of Arts and Design (now the Academy of Art and Design of Tsinghua University) in the 1980s.

After moving to New York in 1990, he discovered the possibility to create art by combining graffiti and calligraphy.

On New York's streets, he was attracted by the free expression of graffiti artists, whose works were a departure from the restrictive art training from his college days.

Feng admits that his 15 years spent in New York made

him rethink his identity as a Chinese artist. He began to study traditional Chinese paintings, and in doing so found that calligraphy was also a kind of improvisational art.

Calligraphers complete their works in one go so that there is coherence in thought and unity in style; calligraphy reflects the artist's temperament.

Feng experimented with the graffiti and calligraphy and created a hybrid in which neither form is obvious. In the late-1990s, he created the Studio, Graffiti and Calligraphy series.

He returned to China in 2006 and now lives and works in Beijing. "His recent works benefit more from the conceptions of traditional Chinese art – an approach more closely related to the inner self," said Gu Zhenqing, curator and director of White Box Museum of Art.

The museum presented Feng's latest works last Saturday.

It Is Not the Eternal Tao: Abstract Paintings of Feng Lianhong

Where: White Box Museum of Art, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 6, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 4801

5 Friday, July 15

Movie
Last Train Home (2009)
Chinese-Canadian filmmaker Fan Lixin's story

follows a migrant couple on their annual trek home during Spring Festival. *Last Train Home's* intimate observation of one fractured family sheds light on the human cost of China's economic growth.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 8404 4166

Nightlife

Stay in My Song

Wanting Qu is the first Chinese singer to sign with Nettwerk Music Group, a Canadian music label. She is preparing her first full-length album.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8:30 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5205 1113

Exhibition

Zealot 2012 – Zhou Hehe Solo Exhibition

Zhou uses handmade cloth, rigorously selected and matched, to create artful impressions of calmness, order, beauty and allure.

Where: Yang Gallery, Songzhuang Original Art Exhibition Center, Tongzhou District

When: Until July 21, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8957 8384



7 Sunday, July 17

Movie
Mirror of Empress (2010)

The documentary tells the story of a Buddhist temple in Shiqu, the highest northwest county seat in Sichuan Province, where monks attempt to explore Tibetan beliefs and ways of spiritual living.

Where: Trainspotting, C1, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6406 0658

Nightlife

Mr. Miss Love Jazz

Formed in 2009, indie jazz band Mr. Miss perhaps a diverse style of jazz, bossa, folk and rock.

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8:30 pm

Admission: Free



6 Saturday, July 16

Nightlife

Funk Fever

Two floors, seven DJs and a percussionist bring one of the most diverse dance parties to Beijing.

Where: Migas Restaurant and Lounge, 6/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5208 6061

Exhibition



Proclaimed Dreams – Kuchida Maki's Solo Exhibition

This exhibition presents Maki's works about her life journey, traversing through dreamscapes of endearing self-discovery and of the world. The artwork is part of a series of paintings Maki

has been creating with since 2005.

Where: Thread Gallery, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9667

Movie



War and Peace (1956)

Napoleon's tumultuous relationship with Russia, including his disastrous 1812 invasion, serve as the backdrop for the tangled personal lives of two aristocratic families.

Where: Book Fun, C-0106, Ocean International Center, 60 Dongsihuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5908 1615



(By Xinji Letu)

Upcoming

Nightlife

Big Hunk & Paradise

Unique because every one of its members weighs more than 120 kilograms, the Chinese band Big Hunk will make its debut in Beijing with the local band Paradise.

Where: Yugongyishan Club, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: July 21, 9:30 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in August

Concert

Myung-whun Chung and Asia Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-800 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Sun Yingdi Piano Recital

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 200-280 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Roger Lord Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: August 21, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Dance

Rojas and Rodriguez's Flamenco

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 13-14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 160-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Crosstalk Travelers

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: August 5-7, 7:30 pm

Admission: 190-900 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

Hysterics

Where: Nine Theater (TNT), Chaoyang Culture Center, 12 Jintai Li, Chaoyang District

When: August 25-28, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-200 yuan, 50 yuan for students

Tel: 6551 6930

Opera

Rigoletto

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 25-27, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-800 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Treat your athlete's foot with herbs

By Li Zhixin

Summer is here, and many people with sweaty feet are finding themselves once again plagued by the burning itch of stinging blisters — especially between the toes and on the soles of the feet.

Athlete's foot, medically referred to as tinea pedis, is a fungal infection that is highly contagious and spreads via contact with skin, shoes and fabric.

While usually a minor annoyance, athlete's foot can affect your mood and your work efficiency. If you find yourself developing the condition this summer, consider trying a traditional herbal remedy.

Wet feet more prone to infection

As a salesman, Barry Zhang has to wear a suit and tie as well as leather shoes all year round.

The poor circulation offered by leather causes him to have severely sweaty feet — together, these form the perfect breeding ground for the fungi that cause athlete's foot.

Last month, when heavy rains paralyzed downtown traffic, Zhang ended up stuck on a bus for more than four hours with wet feet. By the time he reached his home, his feet were extremely itchy.

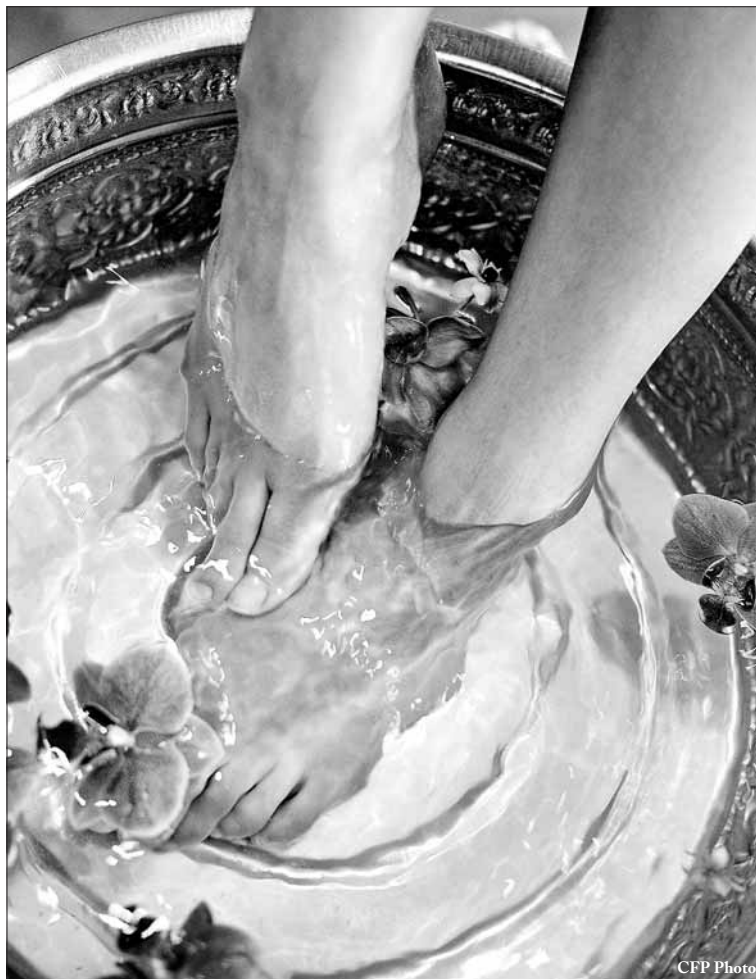
The next morning, he found that some of the skin between his toes had cracked. By the time he saw a doctor, he found many of the wounds had started to ulcerate and seep blood.

"This is called inter-digital athlete's foot, sometimes known by the name beriberi," said Li Langhui, the president of Beijing Deshengmen Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital.

Beriberi tends to occur in skin that is moist and pale white. It begins with itching and burning and a slight odor. Eventually, the skin of the toes becomes scaly and starts to peel and crack. In severe cases, bacteria begin to break down the skin and create a very foul odor.

Prevention

1. Launder clothes in hot water with bleach to kill any lurking fungi.
2. Keep your feet clean and wash your feet at the end of the day.
3. Dry carefully between your toes after swimming and bathing. Use talcum powder to keep your feet dry.
4. Let your shoes air out for at least 24 hours before wearing them again. Wider shoes, sandals and cloth shoes allow your feet to breathe.
5. Spray shoes with a disinfectant and set them in the sun to kill germs.
6. Wear cotton socks to absorb sweat. Change your socks as often as necessary.
7. Take your shoes off when indoors, but leave your socks on.
8. If you develop an infection, avoid scratching it. Fungi spread easily and can infect your groin or underarms.



CFP Photo

Types of athlete's foot

There are several types of athlete's foot. In addition to beriberi, there are also moccasin-type infections and vesicular infections.

Moccasin-type infections begin with minor irritation, dryness, itching or burning skin. These can lead to scaly, thickened skin on the heels and sole of the feet and can also lead to toenail infections. In severe cases, the toenails become infected and can thicken, crumble and fall off.

Li said this type of athlete's foot can be very difficult to treat because the skin on the sole of

the foot is very thick. Re-infection is common if preventative measures are not taken.

Nonprescription medicines may not be strong enough to penetrate the thick skin, so treatment often requires the use of prescription lotions or creams, as well as oral medication.

Vesicular infection, which is also called inflammatory athlete's foot, usually begins with a sudden outbreak of blisters that become red and inflamed. They generally appear on the instep of the foot, but can also appear between the toes, on the sole of the foot, on the top of the foot or

on the heel.

Blisters occasionally erupt again on the same area and move to other parts of the body after the initial infection. Between eruptions, they cause scaly skin, and the fungal infection itself may be accompanied by bacterial infection.

Treatment of this kind of infection involves drying out the blisters, then applying an antifungal cream. Sufferers may also need oral antibiotics or corticosteroids for a bacterial infection, he said.

Herbal treatment for the infection

There are many anti-fungal herbs used to treat athlete's foot in traditional medicine:

1. Garlic

Garlic is an antifungal antiseptic and is effective in treating athlete's foot. You can simply add some crushed garlic in a warm foot bath and dab garlic oil on your feet and between your toes.

2. Ginger

Ginger contains caprylic acid, which is good for fungal infections. Simmer the crushed ginger for 20 minutes and apply it to the affected areas when it cools.

3. Onion

Onions also have good anti-microbial properties. Rub onion juice on affected areas a couple of times a day to ease the condition.

4. Turmeric

Turmeric oil has antifungal effects. It can be mixed with a little water and applied to the areas of your feet infected by athlete's foot.

5. Astragalus

Astragalus is a strong antifungal herb, and as a herbal supplement can be used to boost your other athlete's foot treatments.

6. Black walnut

Black walnut is an excellent herbal remedy for fungal infections. A tincture or liquid extract of the herb can be applied topically to affected areas.

7. Licorice

Licorice has 25 fungicidal compounds and has been used in traditional medicine to treat ringworm. It can be added to the garlic foot bath if you want to increase the curative effect. It can be also applied with a cotton ball to the affected areas after simmering for 20 minutes.

8. Tea tree oil

Tea tree oil is an antiseptic, but it should be diluted in equal parts of water or vegetable oil when treating athlete's foot. Apply it to the affected area three times a day.

9. Tomato and herb sauce.

Apply mashed tomatoes, celery, carrot, dill, fennel, sage and thyme between your toes, as the sauce contains a lot of antifungal properties.

10. Herbal teas

Drink herbal teas of cinnamon, orange, peppermint, lemon, echinacea or red clover to boost your topical athlete's foot treatment. The teas all have antifungal properties.

Times a-changin' in Fangshan



By He Jianwei

No other district in Beijing can match the long history of Fangshan District, where the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

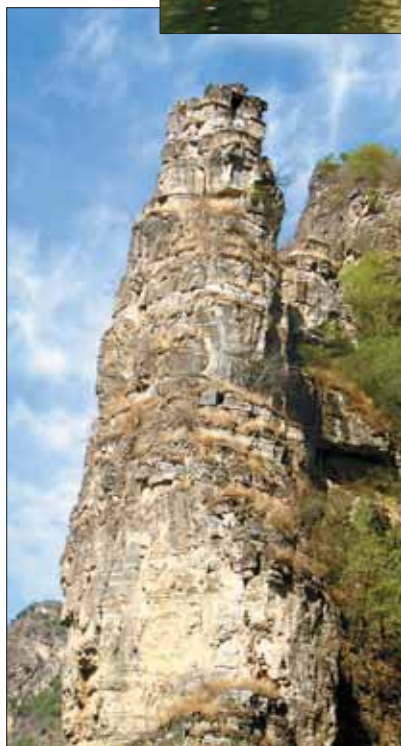
As an ancient capital during the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 BC), there are 351 ancient sites in Fangshan, including

the famous Buddhist shrine Yunju Temple, built more than 1,300 years ago.

In the new millennium, the municipal government drew up development projects according to each town's characteristics. On June 25, the municipal government announced tourism projects in five towns, centered around a geological park.



The mountainous and cliff faces are examples of geological evolution.



Tower-shaped mountains in the geological park



Amusement park in Shidu



Zhoukoudian Town: Origin of Man

The museum at Zhoukoudian showcases more than 3,000 cultural relics about the lives of our earliest ancestors. The site was first excavated in 1921, and the museum opened to the public in 1953.

The Peking Man, whose bones and fossils were excavated in the 1920s, is significant because it supposedly is one the earliest discovered ancestors to modern human beings. The site at Zhoukoudian was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

"Fangshan is regarded as the source of Beijing," said Qi Hong, head of Fangshan District. "Using the Peking Man Site, the town will carry forward its cultural heritage."

In order to attract more people, a new museum that will be 10 times larger than the current one will be finished within the year.

"The new museum will feature hi-tech equipment that can enhance interaction with the audience and demonstrate the origin of creatures and our evolution," said Zhang Haisheng, secretary of the Party committee in Zhoukoudian Town.

The caves where archeologists first discovered the bones of the Peking Man will also be open to the public.

Getting there:

Take Bus 616 at Beijing West Railway Station and get off at Liangxiang Ximen stop, then transfer to Bus 38; or take Bus 917 at Tianqiao Bus Station and get off at Zhoukoudian and transfer to Bus 38.

Open: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Admission: 30 yuan for museum

Tel: 6930 1278



Museum of Peking Man Site in Zhoukoudian Town

Qinglonghu Town: Wine Chateau

Named after its reservoir, the town located in the northeast part of the district has an amusement park that has been operational since 1995, providing aquatic sports, bungee jumping, parachuting and rowing.

The district is rich with coal and many small coal mines are distributed throughout Qinglonghu. The government closed the mines before the Olympics due to pollution concerns.

Without the coal industry, the local government has turned to other methods of making money. A delegation of French wine experts was invited to town, and now Qinglonghu grows grapes for use in wine production.

"The town is located on the 40th parallel, which is known as the golden line for wine production," said Fan Huilai, head of Qinglonghu. "According to meteorological data, the summer period is 103 days long, and the frost-free period is 202 days. The soil type is lava, which is best for grapes."

Last year, the government invested 8 billion yuan to develop the wine industry. Twenty wine chateaus will be built within three years - five this year, 10 in 2012 and the rest in 2013.

Each chateau can produce 330,000 bottles, accept 5,000 tourists and provide 100 jobs each year.

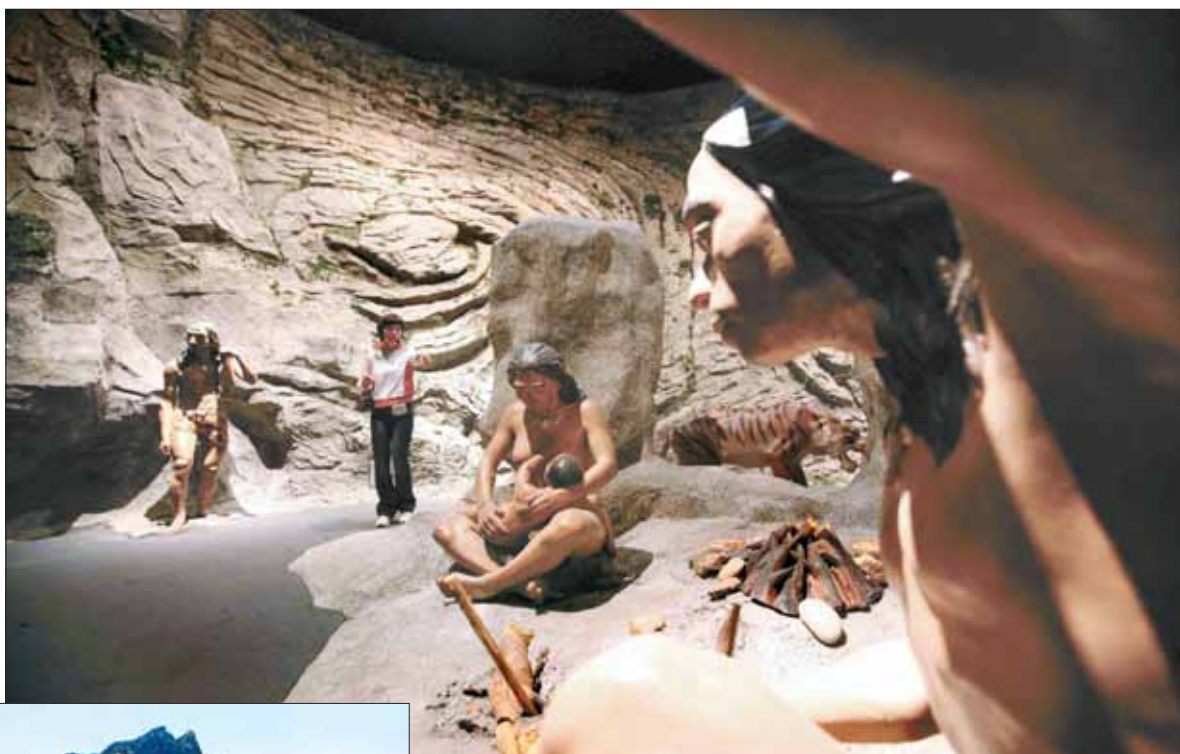
Getting there:

Take Bus 917 at Tianqiao Bus Station and get off at Liangxiang Beiguan stop, then transfer to Bus 36.

Tel: 6032 1706

CFP Photos

Continued on page 21...



Fangshan Geopark Museum shows prehistoric life.

CFP Photos

...continued from page 20

Changgou Town: Geological Park

Located in the southern part of the district, Changgou became a geotourism destination when UNESCO recognized Fangshan Geopark as the first geopark in Beijing in 2006.

"The park displays the long geological evolution of the region, and visitors can see different landforms, from volcanic to karst," said Li Zhong, secretary of the Party committee in Changgou. "It is an ideal destination for camping and trekking. It is also a classroom for people who love geology."

Unlike most mountains in northern China, the tower-shaped mountains in the park jut sharply into the sky. Karst caves are scattered throughout the mountainous areas.

Shihua Cave and Yinhu Cave are two representative caves. Discovered during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Shihua Cave has been

Hebei Town: Beautiful Valley

In northern Fangshan is Hebei, a former coal-mining town. Most of the houses are ranch houses built in the 1950s and '60s.

Last October, Jingmei Group – previously known as Beijing Coal Mining Bureau – signed a contract with Fangshan District to reconstruct the town in a project called "Beautiful Valley." According to the contract, the Group will invite international companies to develop the town into a holiday destination. Although the coal mines are closed, the sites remain as a destination for tourists.

Most of the villages in the town have developed their own rural tourism. Visitors can pick vegetables and fruits, ride horses and spend nights in wooden houses.

Banbian Village offers rural entertainment for tourists such as stilt-walking and Yangge dance performances.

Getting there:

Take Bus 917 at Tianqiao Bus Station and get off at Banbian stop.

Tel: 6031 3135

Hancunhe Town: Forest park

Located in the southeastern part of the district, Hancunhe is famous for its forest park and Buddhist shrines.

"The Shangfangshan National Forest Park has more ancient trees than anywhere else in Beijing, including ginkgos, cypresses, pines and linden trees. There are 72 ancient temples in the forest park, which is the largest cluster of Buddhist shrines in northern China," said Dou Baocai, secretary of the Party committee in Changgou and director of Shangfangshan National Forest Park.

One of the famous temples is Doushuai Temple, built during the Sui Dynasty (581-618). The temple is only accessible after scaling 262 stone steps, which were cut into a perpendicular cliff during the Ming Dynasty.

"We aim to build our town as a destination for eco-tourism. Visitors can be close to nature and experience ancient culture while climbing the mountains," Dou said.

Getting there: Take Bus 917 at Tianqiao Bus Station and get off at Liangxiang Ximen stop, then transfer to Bus 15.

Admission: 40 yuan

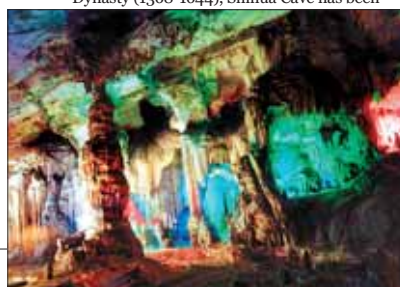
Tel: 6131 5542



Photo provided by Fangshan District



Yinhu Cave is famous for a stalactite shaped like a white fox.



Shihua Cave is a well preserved karst cave.

Photo provided by Fangshan District

well preserved, with stalagmites and stalactites that look like stone flowers. Water still drips from the ceiling, showing visitors how it was formed over thousands of years.

Yinhu Cave is famous for a stalactite that looks like a white fox jumping from the top of the cave.

Besides the natural landscapes, there is a museum, opened in May, showing how the rocks have evolved over time.

Getting there: Take Bus 917 at Tianqiao Bus Station and get off at Yunjusi Temple stop, then walk west along Yunjusi Lu for a kilometer.

Admission: 70 yuan for Shihua Cave; 43 yuan for Yinhu Cave

Tel: 6036 8202

Dining



Condé Nast Traveler Magazine honors Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing

Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing once again was ranked among the best hotels by the UK's edition of *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine in its newly released 17th Gold List. This is the third year the hotel has been honored, following listings in 2008 and 2010. Shangri-La is one of only 11 Beijing hotels to win the honor.

The Condé Nast Traveler Gold List is a professional guide of the world's best hotels and cruise lines, and is compiled from votes cast by more than 25,000 readers. The seal of honor only goes to those hotels that persistently provide quality products, services and quality experiences for guests.

The UK edition of *Condé Nast Traveler* is a leading tourism magazine. Its annual Gold List is the product of stringent assessment based on readers' ratings of the world's top hotels in terms of room facilities, services, cuisine, locality, environment, design and amenities.

Located on the west side of Beijing, Shangri-La juxtaposes the bustling financial and commercial districts and high-tech parks. A versatile transport network ensures easy access to ancient monuments and scenic spots, and the hotel is only a 30-minute drive away from Capital International Airport.

Its ideal location and reputation make it the first choice for tourists and business executives staying in Beijing.



JW Marriott brand wins another accolade

The JW Marriott Hotel Beijing recently was recognized as one of the "2011 Best Business Hotels" by *National Geographic Traveler (China) Magazine*.

The magazine selected winners based on the results of an online reader poll, as well as opinions from a panel of experts consisting of hospitality professionals, celebrities and journalists.

"JW Marriott is our company's highly acclaimed business travel oriented luxury brand. It is reserved for select luxury properties offering the highest levels of comfort, technology, personal service, privacy and world-class amenities. The JW Marriott Hotel Beijing vividly reflects these features of the brand and is well deserved for this kudos," said Craig Smith, chief operating officer Asia-Pacific.

"Credits should be given to my associates at the hotel as they have been working diligently to service our guests and put them at ease in an environment of relaxed elegance and effortless luxury. This kind of hotel experience is exactly what sophisticated, self-assured business travelers are looking for," said Bob Fabiano, managing director of the JW Marriott Hotel Beijing.

Aviation

British Airways expands bookings to more Chinese cities

British Airways announced a major enhancement of its ba.com website that enables travelers from 11 additional Chinese cities to book flights to numerous destinations in the UK, Europe and North America.

The extra cities now available are Chongqing, Changsha, Chengdu, Fuzhou, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Nanjing, Sanya, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Xiamen.

Travelers from these cities can now choose to travel via Beijing or Shanghai on Air China, China Eastern Airlines or Hainan Airlines or via Hong Kong on Cathay Pacific or Dragonair. World Traveler economy class fares start from 5,400 yuan.

"We have seen a growing demand for our flight services from more parts of the country. British Airways is committed to facilitate customers in China so that they can enjoy our services more easily and conveniently," said Kevin McQuillan, British Airways' regional general manager for East Asia. "In view that China now boasts the largest population of Internet

users worldwide, upgrading the functionality of our ba.com is the right way to address this market demand."

Bookings for all cabin classes from the aforementioned Chinese cities can be made on ba.com or through a travel agent. Customers traveling on British Airways flights to and from London can also check-in online, print their boarding pass at ba.com and select a seat up to 24 hours before departure.

Jetstar offers low-fare flights from Ningbo to Singapore

Low fares leader Jetstar has announced its 5th direct destination on the Chinese mainland: Ningbo.

Jetstar, which flies to more than 50 destinations in 14 countries, is the fastest growing low-cost airline in the Asia-Pacific region.

Its pan-Asian network extends from Australia through Singapore, as well as to Japan, China and Vietnam. The airline also operates services to New Zealand and includes a direct link between Singapore and Auckland.

Jetstar's one-way fares from Ningbo to Singapore start from 998 yuan. Tickets can be purchased on Jetstar.com.

Info

Second China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum begins in autumn

The 2011 China International Investment and Trade Fair and the Second China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum will be held in Ningxia from September 21 to 25.

The fair will have a Halal food and Muslim products, energy and chemical products exhibition, China provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions' products exhibition, as well as investment and business workshops. The forum aims to provide a high-level platform for discussion of trade and economics.

The event will be attended by leading officials, elites from business circle, experts and scholars from China and the Arab State.

The Fair and Forum will also hold 11 other activities, including the Forum on China-Arab States Science and Technology Cooperation, the China-Arab States University Presidents Forum and the China-Arab State Radio and Television Forum.

Dining



New cafe opens on Crowne's 6th floor

Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town recently opened a 6th floor cafe with a Pan-Asian and European buffet. It offers a variety of seafood, sushi and sashimi, as well as freshly cut steaks and meats grilled a la minute. Enjoy dim sum, noodles, desserts, Hong Kong roasts and traditional Beijing foods prepared in an open kitchen.

Where: 6F, Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, 3 Sanfeng Bei Li, Chaoyang District (south-east of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

When: 11:30 am - 2 pm

Cost: Crowne International buffet, 128 yuan per person (15 percent gratuity)
Tel: 5909 6688

French Festival at VIC

Sofitel Luxury hotels is participating in "So French So Good," a French government initiative to promote the country's products around the globe.

Last week, Sofitel Luxury hotels around the world celebrated Festival Mondial de la Gastronomie, a tour of international cuisine. Sofitel Wanda Beijing is extending this French Week to last the entire month.

Come to VIC restaurant to indulge in French cuisine during the week of Bastille Day, or indulge in a luxurious Champagne Sunday Brunch.

For these special occasions, executive chef Manfred Wimmer is preparing many traditional French dishes for the buffet. Ask the house sommelier to help select a wine to complement your meal choice.

Where: VIC, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Bastille Day (ends July 16); Sunday brunch (July 17 and 24)

Cost: Bastille Day lunch buffet, 228 yuan; dinner buffet, 288 yuan. Sunday brunch, 328 yuan with soft drinks and juice; 368 yuan per person with French wine and international beer; 428 yuan with Champagne (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 8599 6666

(By Jackie Zhang)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to LI Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

Don't be 'er' at dinner parties

By Annie Wei

My friend Alison hosted a house party for nine guests last Sunday. She loves cooking and hanging out with friends over wine, so we were all excited for the get-together.

Alison let us know that before she moved to Beijing, she hosted dinner parties every two weeks. Like a true veteran, she prepared nine dishes plus a soup. The dinner was great. The dishes were foreign and local, and delicious. She topped things off by serving Chinese dessert.

The guests were great, too. Everyone had an interesting story, old friends and new friends mingled and we gabbed the night away.

Although it's usually assumed that food costs will be split among the guests, most people also brought a bottle of wine to show their appreciation for the chef.

It was a nice gesture, considering Alison spent two days preparing for this night, and food costs are skyrocketing these days.

I brought a bottle of Penfold's from Australia, a safe choice. It cost around 150 yuan. My friend Emilia, a Canadian originally from Hong Kong, spent about 200 yuan for a bottle of French wine. It was her first time attending our party, so she went overboard and also brought a big bucket of Cold Stone ice cream.

Everything went great until the very end, when a girl named Samantha, as we were about to leave, blurted, "Oh, my cheesecake, everyone should give me 20 yuan to cover the cost."

I was a little surprised. But, well, I've known Samantha a long time, and I understand she's not as financially secure as others. She's a scriptwriter who hasn't had

much work lately.

Some others, however, were completely caught off guard by her request.

I noticed that Emilia unhappily gave her 10 yuan and quickly rushed into the elevator.

I went after her, saying, "Are you Ok?"

She looked upset. I understood it wasn't because she couldn't afford it, but because of the principle of the thing.

I said, "Well, I'm sorry for Samantha. She's between jobs and always a little bit 'er.'"

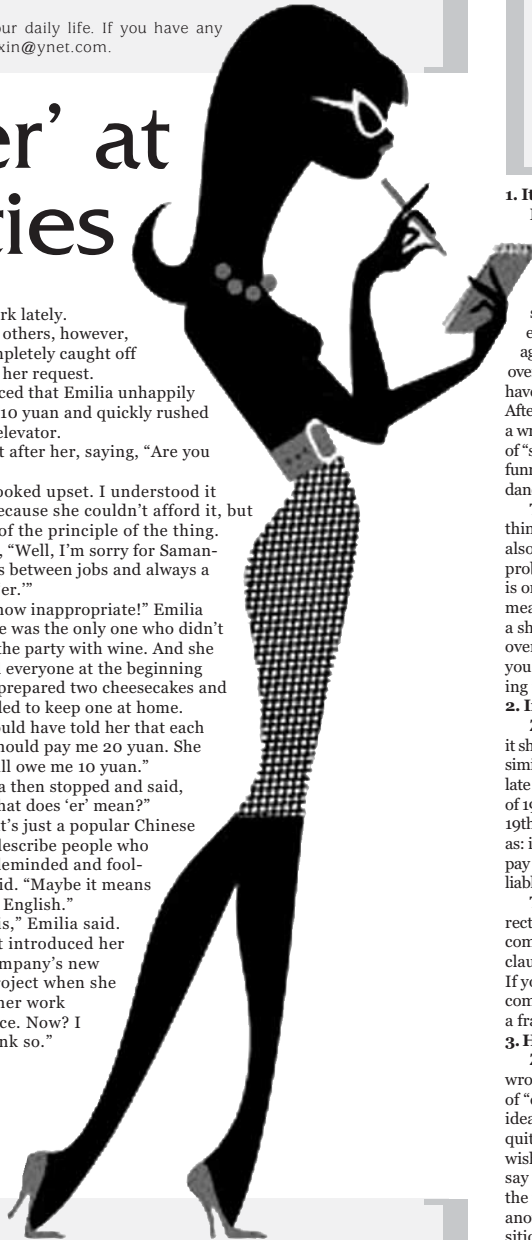
"But how inappropriate!" Emilia said. "She was the only one who didn't come to the party with wine. And she even told everyone at the beginning that she prepared two cheesecakes and she decided to keep one at home."

"I should have told her that each person should pay me 20 yuan. She would still owe me 10 yuan."

Emilia then stopped and said, "Wait, what does 'er' mean?"

"Oh, it's just a popular Chinese term to describe people who act simpleminded and foolish," I said. "Maybe it means 'thick' in English."

"She is," Emilia said. "I almost introduced her to my company's new movie project when she told me her work experience. Now? I don't think so."



Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

1. It seemed like the battle was over.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD): I don't think "like" is necessary in this sentence. To seem itself means to look like, appear to be. So, if you add "like," it may be redundant. We have some examples here: He seemed strong for his age. It is totally unnecessary to say, He seemed like strong for his age. If you say, It seemed that the battle was over, it is neat and perfect. In some cases, we have the structure of "seem + like," for instance, After what seemed like hours he came out with a wry smile. And we also do have the structure of "seem + as if," for instance, He behaved in a funny way and seemed as if a little boy at the dancing party.

Terry-Boyd Zhang (TBZ): To me, I think the sample sentence is OK, though I also don't disagree with the Professor. The problem I often see when students use "seem" is one of logic. In the sample sentence, the meaning is that the battle will still continue for a short while longer, the battle wasn't really over, though it "seemed" to be. So, logically, if you write: He seemed to love her — the meaning is that he really didn't deep down.

2. In the late of the 19th century

ZSD: This is wrong. The correct way to say it should be: In the late 19th century. We have similar expressions here: late last year, not "in the late last year"; in the late 1950s, not "in the late of 1950s." If you refer to the second half of the 19th century, then you have such an expression as: in the latter half of the 19th century. Please pay attention to the word "latter"; beginners are liable to use "later," and that's incorrect.

TBZ: Also, for both of the Professor's corrected examples, remember that they are not complete sentences in themselves. They are clauses and need to be followed with a comma. If you put in a period, your teacher — or your computer spell-checker — will tell you that it is a fragment and ask you to fix it.

3. He quit his job despite it having paid well.

ZSD: The sentence structure is totally wrong. The writer seems not to know the usage of "despite" as a preposition. To express the idea, I think it would be prefect to say: He quit his job though it paid him well. If you wish to stick to the usage of "despite," we may say in a stylish way: He quit his job despite the fact that it paid him well. Let us have another example with "despite" as a preposition: Despite a shortage of steel, industrial output has increased by five percent.

TBZ: A good construction to use in an essay is: "despite" (whatever was said previously), there is "also" (something else that I would like to add). Despite the fact that she liked cats best, she also had a dog and kept several turtles.

4. These figures paint too rose of a picture for Prada.

ZSD: The writer has twisted the usage of a proper phrase here. The pattern of this structure should be: too + adjective + noun, namely, too rosy a picture. So, the sample sentence should be: These figures paint too rosy a picture for Prada. First, "rose" is a noun, it is not an adjective, and its adjective form should be "rosy." Here are some other examples: He is too energetic a boy for the job. It is too difficult a problem for a pupil.

TBZ: The Professor is correct. I believe that this error was simply a slip of the writer's editor — easy to do and difficult to find because rose is spelled correctly, so the spell-checker on the computer doesn't pick it up. Although computerized grammar checkers are really helpful, they aren't perfect. Let me end with two philosophical points: Would a Prada bag by any other name smell as stylish? (Shakespeare.) Would a Prada bag be a Prada bag be a Prada bag? Or is Prada a thing in our memory that has lost its identity and we need to recover it? (Gertrude Stein.)

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

"Scared" Land of Yan'an

By Terry-Boyd Zhang

I suspect that most foreigners in China, even the most ignorant of Chinese history, must be vaguely familiar with Mao Zedong.

Basically, various communist groups were on the move, from the south of China to the north, and then west. Why were the communists marching, you ask? Well, the motherland found herself oppressed on all sides. From without, there came the bad guys: imperialistic Japan, Germany and Britain, among others. From within, China was under the yoke of ignorance, illiteracy, backwardness and progress-stalling old ideas of the ancient Qing Dynasty.

The march that became known as



the Long March started in 1934, took longer than a year and covered about 12,500 kilometers across the hinterlands of China. I would be scared of walking that far. They ended in the province of Shaanxi, not far from Yan'an. These are the last two characters on the sign. This city became

the Communist Party base from 1936 to 1948. The March represents Mao's rise to power and Yan'an represents the birthplace of the Revolution (*geming*), the first two characters), which won over the country on October 1, 1949.

The problem with the translation is the central two characters which say *shendi* or "Holy Place." If Chairman Mao was a god, translating *shendi* as "sacred" would be fine. However, if Grandpa Mao (as my children were taught by a local person to say) was a man, then using "holy ground" is incorrect — and scared place demonstrates a slip of the translator's pen, so to speak.

Welcome you to Yan'an, the birthplace of New China.



“Healing begins with forgiveness.”

The challenge of forgiveness



“The father and daughter share the same flaw: he made a selfish decision to abandon his family, and now the girl selfishly wants revenge.”



By Xinji Letu

A short films showcase began last Thursday at UCCA Art Cinema. The event, part of Tudou's Wild Images, is intended to draw attention to China's best short films.

Dalinuoer, a 38-minute film, was screened on the first day. The film followed the story of a father looking for a daughter he had never met.

After learning he is about to die of liver cancer, US photographer Ding Lianhai resolves to return to Inner Mongolia, where he abandoned his wife two decades before.

While checking for the whereabouts of his wife at the police station, he learned she died and left behind a young girl named Dalinuoer. Ding begins a search for a daughter he has never met.

“Everyone tries to escape reality when they confront death. When you know death is coming, everything becomes your last chance,” director Ma Nan said.

Ding goes to a photo shop where his daughter works to print some old photos of his wife in hopes of meeting Dalinuoer.

“Ding and his daughter are not ready to meet. Neither knows how to deal with the encounter,” said Guo Feifei, the screenwriter.

Instead of telling the truth, Dalinuoer says she is a colleague of Ding's daughter and starts plotting revenge.

“It's a common way for people her age to deal with injustice. She thinks her father should suffer for having abandoned her and her mother,” Guo said.

She tells Ding that she will help him meet Dalinuoer if he pays 500 yuan. For a moment, Ding stares at her: with her bright pink hair and punk attire, he's not sure whether to trust her. He decides to

try anyway.

But secretly, Dalinuoer hires two men to follow and kill her father as she leads him on a two-day drive into a remote part of the grasslands.

“The father and daughter share the same flaw: he made a selfish decision to abandon his family, and now the girl selfishly wants revenge,” Ma said.

After a short talk, Dalinuoer finds her anger fading. She starts to rethink her revenge as the men she hired bury her father alive.

In the end, she runs back to his father and decides to forgive him.

“Sometimes what you want most is what you need least,” Ma said. “Humans do not need 3-million-yuan cars to survive, but that doesn't stop people from chasing the dream.”

Dalinuoer thought revenge was the best way to release a lifetime of bitterness, but she finds something more important than revenge: familial love.

The film was Ma's graduation project at Beijing Film Academy in 2010 and his directorial debut. The highly acclaimed film was screened at the 5th Chinese



Dalinuoer (left) pretends that she is a colleague of Ding's daughter and starts plotting revenge.

Young Generation Film Forum.

“I have always wanted to film inspiring stories about humanity,” Ma said. He chose the grasslands of Inner Mongolia as a setting to express his philosophy of life – pain can be overcome when viewed in a broader context.

“Things that we believe as very important often appear petty from an outside viewpoint,” he said.



The film follows the story of a father looking for a daughter he has never met.

Photos provided by Ma Nan